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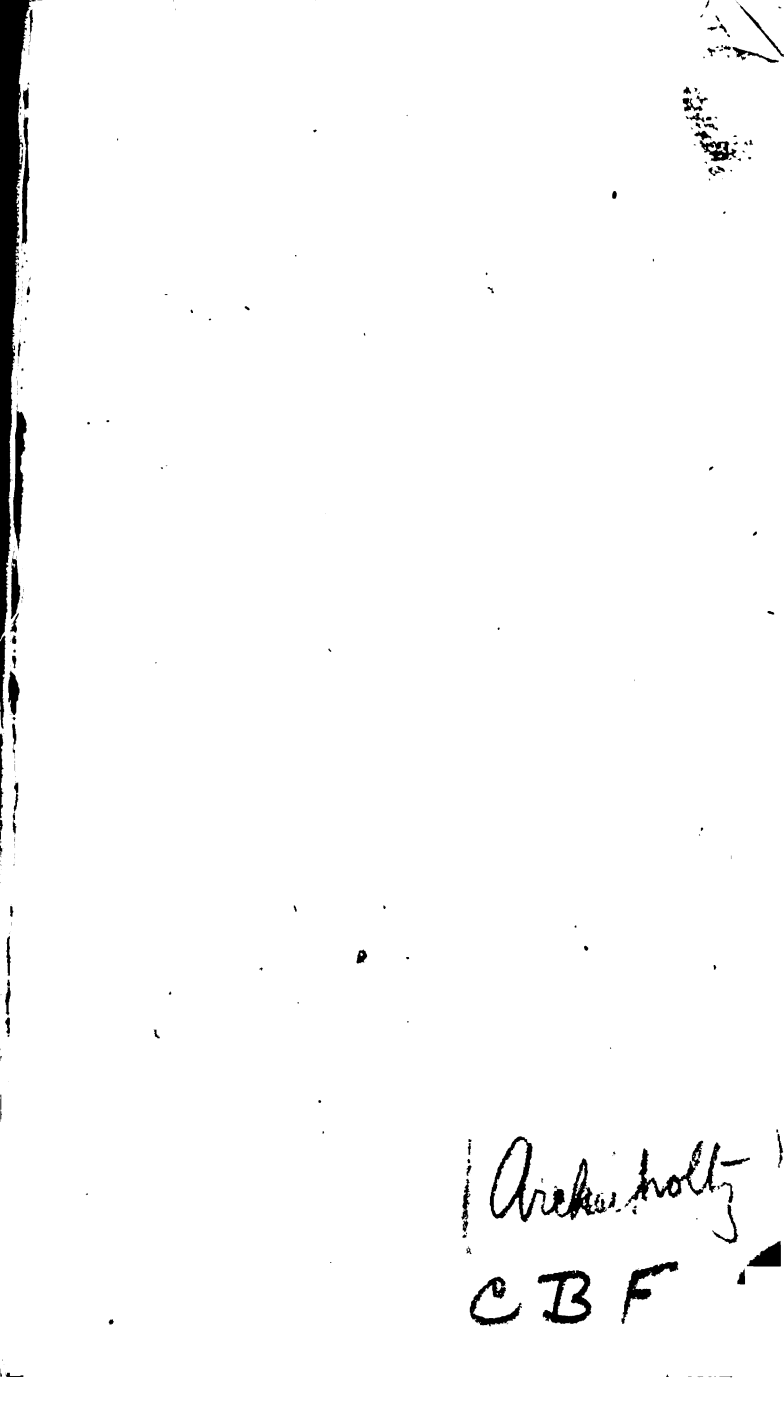

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A PICTURE OF ENGLAND:

CONTAINING

A DESCRIPTION OF THE LAWS, CUSTOMS, AND MANNERS OF ENGLAND.

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[two vols.]

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LONDON:
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MDCCLXXXIX.

A PICTURE OF ENGLAND:

CONTAINING

A DESCRIPTION OF THE LAWS, CUSTOMS, AND MANNERS OF ENGLAND.

Interſperſed with curious and intereſting Anecdotes of

Preſent King of Denmark	General Smith	Mrs. Abington
Prince of Wales	Lord Camden	Mr. Wedgewood
Late Empreſs Maria Thereſa	Lord Thurlow	Chevalier D'Eon
Louis XV.	Lord Kenyon	Lord Stormont
ke de Choiſeul	Duke of Bridgewater	Mr. Villette
ate Duke of Bedford	Lord Chatham	General Ganfell
Ducheſs Dowager of Bedford	Lord Sackville	Late Mr. Garrick
Duke of Northumberland	General Burgoyne	Mr. Foote
Ducheſs of Devonſhire	Mr. Luttrell	Mrs. Cornelly's
Lord Bute	Mr. Wilkes, and ſe-	Mrs. Siddons
Lord North	veral other Alder-	Barry
Lord Mansfield	men	Woodward
Mr. Fox	Mr. Burke	Weſton
Mr. Pitt	Mr. Horne Tooke	Henderſon
Lord Sandwich	Late Lord Clive	Palmer
Admiral Keppel	Mr. Gibbon	Mr. Kelly, &c. &c. &c.

By M. D'ARCHENHOLZ,

Formerly a Captain in the Service of the King of Pruſſia.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH.

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MDCCLXXXIX.

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TO

EDWARD FISHWICK, Esq.

WHOSE NUMEROUS VIRTUES, AND AMIABLE MANNERS,

HAVE GAINED HIM

THE FRIENDSHIP, APPROBATION, AND ESTEEM

OF ALL HIS ACQUAINTANCES,

THIS BOOK, ENTITLED

A PICTURE OF ENGLAND,

IS DEDICATED

BY

THE TRANSLATOR.

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A PICTURE OF ENGLAND.

CHAPTER I.

View of Great Britain—Manner of thinking in England—Privileges and Liberty of the Nation—Courts of Juſtice—Ducheſs of Kingſton—Colonel de la Mothe—General Elections—Rights of the Sovereign—Outlines of the Character of Geo. III. Miniſterial Projects—Lord George Germaine—National Opinions of Equality, Honour, Diſhonour, and unequal Matches—Mr. Luttrell—General Burgoyne—Saratoga.

THE iſland of Great Britain is ſo different from all the other ſtates of Europe, in the form of its government, its laws, its cuſtoms, its manners, and the mode of thinking and of acting

adopted by its inhabitants, that it ſeems rather to belong to ſome other globe than that on which we live. The contraſt is uncommonly ſtriking when one paſſes directly from France to England. On that occaſion a ſtranger imagines himſelf tranſported to another planet, the voyage is ſo ſhort, and performed in ſuch a ſmall ſpace of time.

No country in the world ought more to intereſt the philoſophical obſerver than that kingdom, of which ſo much is ſaid and ſo little underſtood. This indeed will be always the opinion of every impartial man, who has reſided there ſufficiently long to learn the language of the country, and acquire the knowledge neceſſary to form a proper opinion.

The uncommon revolution that has taken place in England within the two laſt centuries, in the manners, the ſciences and the arts, in commerce, religion, and above all in the political conſtitution, is worthy of exciting the greateſt aſtoniſhment. Notwithſtanding the ancient privileges which the nation acquired with great difficulty, and which even in barbarous times aſſumed the name of liberty, the government was ſtill tyrannical. Of this the hiſtory of the reign of Henry VIII. and of the cruel Mary his daughter, will furniſh the moſt

moſt inconteſtable proofs. However, in more proſperous times, they paſſed rapidly from the extreme of oppreſſion to the moſt unbridled liberty in both civil and religious affairs. It is out of the boſom of this independence that thoſe characters ariſe whoſe originality ſo much ſurpriſes us. A rich Engliſhman, and in general every inhabitant of that fortunate iſland, knows no other reſtraint on his conduct than the laws, and his own inclination.—If he does not infringe on the juriſprudence of his country, he is entirely maſter of his own actions. From thence proceed thoſe numerous follies, and thoſe extravagancies, at which the nations among whom they are unknown ſeem ſo much ſhocked, for want of being able to inveſtigate the cauſe, which would make them rather aſtoniſhed that they are not more numerous. *The opinion of the world*, ſo formidable in other countries, is there diſregarded. Nobody conſults any thing but his own judgment; and they all deſpiſe the ſentiments of thoſe from whom they have nothing either to hope or to fear.

There, as every where elſe, they laugh at a ridiculous perſon, but they treat him with a great deal of indulgence; and they do not eſteem a gentleman leſs on account of his oddity, provided he hurts no one; for it is one of the particular features of

an Engliſhman's character, never to loſe ſight of the laws of his country. I ſhall hereafter ſhew, by means of the moſt remarkable examples, the influence that this has on the national character.

The Engliſh have adopted in their literature this liberty, or rather this propriety of thinking and of acting; and it is to this that we are indebted for ſo many bold ſyſtems, ſo many ſpirited and uſeful truths, with which their philoſophers and mathematicians have enriched human nature. From thence alſo proceed that daring flight of genius, and thoſe new paths which their hiſtorians and their poets have opened, and with which they have as it were enlarged the world of ideas.

That country has ſo many attractions, that no ſtranger ever remains there any time without being attached to it by ſome ſecret charm: there are two things, however, firſt neceſſary; the one, that he ſhould underſtand Engliſh; and the other, that he ſhould have plenty of money, to enable him to live comfortably in a country where every thing is dear. He will then, whatever may be his taſte, his age, or his manner of thinking, find every thing neceſſary to his ſatisfaction. This charm extends to all conditions, from the higheſt to the moſt wretched. During the reſidence of the

the preſent king of Denmark in France, all the arts were employed to amuſe him: they made entertainments for him hitherto unknown; they even illuminated the foreſts, to give him the pleaſure of the chace by torch-light. Every witty expreſſion which he ſaid, or did not ſay, became at once the ſubject and the burthen of ſome new ſong. In one word, the nation ſtrove on his account to metamorphoſe Paris into an Elyſium. Nevertheleſs London, where he enjoyed none of theſe pleaſures, where no one, not even a common ſailor, gave the wall to him, appeared much more charming.

It is proved by more than one example, that thoſe of the moſt diſtinguiſhed rank are not always ſorry to feel that they are but men. A powerful prince of the Empire, who was too conſcious of his high birth to deign ever to forget it, happening to viſit England, found the Britons treat him with leſs reſpect than he had experienced from his own ſubjects. He began at firſt to complain; but reflecting that it was only what he had a right to expect, he ended by joking at the circumſtance; and although he had not afterwards any more occaſion to be pleaſed with the attentions of the court than with the

politeneſs of the people, this did not prevent him from ſtill thinking that his ſtay was agreeable.

The Engliſh themſelves know ſo well how to appreciate the bleſſings enjoyed in their native country, that thoſe malefactors who conceive the ſlighteſt hope of eſcaping from puniſhment, rather chooſe to be expoſed to the perils attendant on a criminal proceſs than to expatriate themſelves. Exile is, in their eyes, a ſpecies of death little leſs dreadful than a violent end; for one always ſees, at their public executions, wretches who might have eaſily eſcaped by flight.

Notwithſtanding that this country differs in ſo many reſpects from all others, and, according to the opinion of Monteſquieu, is bleſſed with a more perfect government than any other; yet it ſo happens that its excellence is little known, nay is often abuſed, even by thoſe who paſs for philoſophers. From hence proceed thoſe fooliſh doubts concerning the preference of an abſolute monarchy, or a limited one like that of Great Britain. I envy not any man thoſe chains which he glories in: by compariſon they may appear light, and even honourable; but he muſt ſurely not

not only be unjuſt, but even mad, who wiſhes, by means of ſophiſtry, to raiſe the condition of the ſubject of a monarchy above that of an Engliſhman.

Whoever will take the trouble to read the aſtoniſhing actions, recounted in this work, when I treat of the conſtitution, the laws, and the general welfare, will then perhaps ceaſe to think the following ſpeech of the nabob of Arcot hyperbolical, on introducing colonel Smith to the victorious ſoubah of the Decan: "Great "prince! receive my preſent: it is a warrior "with whom I give you the friendſhip of the "Engliſh, who are a nation of kings!"

A German philoſopher, of whom I ſhall hereafter make mention, gives this excellent definition of political liberty: "I call that ſtate free," ſays he, "where there is no greater reſtraint on "human actions, than what is abſolutely neceſ-"ſary for the preſervation of the commonwealth; "a ſtate where nothing is regulated with par-"tiality, but by general acquieſcence, and with "the full view of augmenting the general good; "a ſtate which, in the privileges of any indivi-"dual or any condition, has no reſpect but for "the moſt diſtinguiſhed merit; a ſtate, in one

" word, *where the greateſt powers can at once diſ-*
" *play themſelves, and act in concert.*" I ſhall prove, by inconteſtable facts, that all this is more peculiar to England than any other country.

Notwithſtanding the inteſtine diſſenſions inevitable in a republic, and which even appear neceſſary to its preſervation, ſince, furniſhing food to the democratical ſpirit, they keep the ſtate in health by giving it life and activity; notwithſtanding the unhappy iſſue of the American war; notwithſtanding the enormous debt and devouring luxury of the nation; in fine, notwithſtanding all the vices and imperfections which are the unhappy lot of human nature; the people of England ſtill poſſeſs a felicity worthy to be envied, and of which perhaps other nations can ſcarce have a conception: ſo difficult it is, in living under the mildeſt yoke, to form juſt ideas of a national liberty grounded on the rights of humanity.

Nothing ever appeared more jocular to the Engliſh than that paſſage in the manifeſto of France, publiſhed at the beginning of the laſt war, where it is ſaid, " that the moſt chriſtian
" king found himſelf under the neceſſity of pro-
" tecting the Americans, whoſe *liberty and privi-*
" *leges*

"*leges had been attacked.*" In their anſwer, the miniſtry did not teſtify a ſmall ſhare of aſtoniſhment, that they ſhould make uſe of expreſſions in France which could not in that kingdom be underſtood.

It is a truth which will not admit of doubt, that no poliſhed nation was ever ſo free as the Engliſh are at this day; and thoſe who are acquainted with the conſtitution of ancient and modern kingdoms will not heſitate to ſubſcribe to this opinion. We cannot but pardon his patriotiſm, when a Dutchman or a Swiſs flatters himſelf with poſſeſſing as much liberty as an Engliſhman. A ſuccinct account of Britiſh liberty, by affording a compariſon, will render my argument apparent.

Without mentioning the great number of franchiſes and immunities of every kind, which the great charter and many favourable revolutions have at different times procured to the nation, we may arrange the rights of the people under ſix claſſes, viz.

The Liberty of the Preſs,
The Habeas Corpus Act,
Public Courts of Juſtice,

The Trial by Jury,
The Right of being repreſented in Parliament,
The Privilege of Public Remonſtrances.

LIBERTY OF THE PRESS.

It is with great reaſon that the Engliſh boaſt of the liberty of the preſs, and regard it as the *palladium* or ſafe-guard of their civil liberty. It is true that it is often abuſed by the publication of fooliſh paſquinades, and ſhameful libels; but this inconvenience is amply indemnified by the immenſe advantages produced from it*.

The moſt hardened ſervant of the crown, who in the cabinet and in parliament bluſhes not to propoſe the moſt pernicious plans, and who knows how to endure with the utmoſt coolneſs the moſt outrageous contradictions and reproaches, is ſtopped in the midſt of his audacious enterpriſes by the public voice. Hitherto no Engliſh

* I muſt ſay, to the honour of our country, that, except England, there is no other kingdom in the world where an honeſt man may write ſo many bold truths, and diſcover ſo many abuſes, as in Germany.

miniſter

miniſter has dared to forget or deſpiſe this voice. It is this which often renders his bad deſigns abortive, and deſtroys his beſt concerted projects.

The liberty of the preſs is alſo favourable to thoſe popular aſſemblies ſo neceſſary in a free ſtate; for the newſpapers inform the public of the time, the place, and generally the object of thoſe meetings, which they detail in a particular manner to the whole nation. In them every one enjoys the moſt entire liberty of ſpeech; the members of parliament themſelves, who often go to them, ſometimes find matters better diſcuſſed there than in either houſe of parliament. The ſtateſman whoſe meaſures have been diſapproved, and the miniſter who has been diſmiſſed, there find a free acceſs; there they employ their friends and their credit, and bring all the arts they are maſters of into play to gain the people to their intereſts.

Without the liberty of the preſs, it would have been impoſſible for a ſtate in which the king is the diſpoſer of all the offices, dignities, and in a manner of all the riches of the country, to have maintained its independence ſo long. The moſt inſignificant attempt of a miniſter, which in its remoteſt conſequence gives an appearance of a

deſign on the national liberty, immediately ſets the nation in movement; the people become clamorous; the miniſter trembles, and the project is abandoned. If the public were leſs attentive to trifles, the crown would ſoon extend its prerogative, and at laſt inſenſibly arrive at the end which it aims at—abſolute power.

HABEAS CORPUS ACT.

This ſhelters the loweſt ſubject in the ſtate from oppreſſion. By means of this, neither the miniſter, nor even the king himſelf, can keep any Engliſhman in priſon if the cauſe of his detention is not aſſigned in a few days; it alſo provides that he ſhall be produced before ſome public tribunal, face to face with his accuſer. By its means, one of the loweſt of the people is perfectly ſecure againſt the greateſt grandee in the ſtate, although he may be aided by the ſovereign authority. Can there be a greater contraſt, than betwixt this act and the famous lettres de-câchet, of which the miniſters of France were hitherto ſo prodigal? It was ſufficient to have offended the under clerk of ſome ſtateſman, to have been ſent to the Baſtile and buried alive. If we may believe Linguet, this infernal cuſtom is ſtill

in

in vogue. This ſingular man, during his firſt viſit to England, tortured his genius to abuſe in his Annals the liberty enjoyed by the Engliſh. Now better inſtructed in the ſchool of the Baſtile, he thinks differently, and regards England as the moſt ſacred aſylum. He publicly deplores his fooliſh patriotiſm, and aſſures us in this Journal that his cure is radical.

By means of the hiſtory of Wilkes, in part forgotten, and in part unknown in Germany, I ſhall hereafter ſhew the great advantages of the act in queſtion.

PUBLIC COURTS OF JUSTICE.

Theſe are a neceſſary appendage to a free ſtate. In ancient Greece and Rome, all ſuits and proceſſes were diſcuſſed and determined in public. In ſuch a ſituation it is difficult to be evidently unjuſt, when the auditory conſiſts of a whole people, who obſerve the ſlighteſt action and cenſure the leaſt improper word. There never was any judge but the decemvir Appius, ſo audacious as to bully a whole nation, and become guilty of an open injuſtice.

During the proceſs againſt the ducheſs of Kingſton

Kingſton in 1777, a circumſtance occurred which clearly demonſtrates the excellence of a public trial. This lady being the wife of a peer of the realm, was conſequently tried before the Houſe of Lords. All the peers of England were her judges, under the direction of a lord high ſteward named for that purpoſe by the king, his dignity ending with the trial. The theatre of this auguſt ſcene was Weſtminſter-hall, whoſe ſpacious incloſure was not ſufficient for the crowd of ſpectators. The principal evidence on the ſide of the ducheſs was a bed-ridden old man, whom it was impoſſible to carry out of his chamber. However, the depoſition of this man was ſo favourable to the ducheſs, that it was indiſpenſably neceſſary towards the gaining of her cauſe. What was to be done? She demanded of her judges, that they would pleaſe to appoint a judicial deputation to receive his teſtimony at his own houſe. This was indeed a favour uncommon in England: it appeared, however, ſo equitable to a number of the peers, that they were about to make a decree to that purpoſe.

The earl of Mansfield, lord chief juſtice of England, a man, who to the eloquence of Cicero unites the moſt profound knowledge of the laws of his country, ſeeing the intention of the houſe, roſe

roſe from his ſeat. After having informed them that it was his wiſh to allow to the accuſed all proper means of juſtification, he painted in the moſt lively colours the prejudicial conſequences of ſuch an illegal favour; he obſerved, that a precedent like this, the authority of which is always ſo powerful in the Engliſh courts of law, would induce and even oblige them to conſent to ſimilar demands; that, in all proceſſes of great importance, there are ſick witneſſes who wiſh to be privately examined; and would it not be eaſy, added he, to deceive or ſeduce a ſmall number of men entruſted with ſuch a commiſſion, or even perhaps to procure the election to fall on a choſen few? He ended by ſaying, that this innovation would open the door to venality and ſeduction; that it would give a mortal ſtroke to the national liberty; that it would endanger the right of property ſo ſacred in this iſland, and even the lives of their fellow citizens.

To comprehend the force of this reaſoning it is neceſſary to obſerve, that in all the Engliſh courts of juſtice the ſentence almoſt entirely depends on the depoſition of witneſſes, and that the oral teſtimony of one ſingle evidence is of more avail than a thouſand documents. The ſpeech of lord Mansfield made the moſt lively impreſſion on his

his audience. Thoſe of the peers who were the moſt zealous friends of the ducheſs immediately deſiſted from their demand, and her eloquent defenders became ſilent. Was not this an intereſting ſcene to a philoſophical obſerver?

TRIAL BY JURY.

Twelve ſworn citizens, whom they call a jury, give judgment in all the courts of juſtice. They actually acquit or condemn. It is true, they are aſſiſted by one or more judges, whoſe buſineſs it is to hear the witneſſes, take care of the legality of the procedure, ſum up the evidence, and pronounce the ſentence according to the tenor of the law. Beſides this, to prevent the inconvenience that muſt naturally ariſe from the pretended criminal's being dragged before a court of juſtice on ſlight ſuſpicions, every accuſation is firſt examined by a grand jury, whoſe deciſion either annihilates or continues the proceſs. The petty juries, who give a final ſentence, muſt be unanimous, and are ſhut up in a chamber until they bring in their verdict: on the other hand, the proceedings of the grand jury are regulated by a plurality of voices. If one of the twelve jurymen dies, after the arraignment and before the conviction of the ſuppoſed criminal, he is immediately

mediately releaſed, becauſe no perſon can be tried twice for the ſame offence.

The great impartiality of the Engliſh courts of juſtice is interwoven with the very conſtitution of the government. Never has the moſt powerful miniſter, however great his authority, or however profligate his conduct, attempted to bid defiance to the laws. Whatever may be his power, and however numerous his adherents, if he but attempt to oppreſs the leaſt of his fellow-citizens, a proceſs will immediately iſſue againſt him, and he will be obliged to appear before the judges in perſon. Whoever knows the value of ſuch an ineſtimable privilege, will not fail to admire the adminiſtration of juſtice in England, which can never indeed be imitated but in a ſtate equally free.

Every inhabitant houſe-keeper, at the end of two years, is obliged to undertake in his turn certain parochial employments gratis, and is alſo to ſerve on juries. Foreigners, although they have not been naturalized, are likewiſe liable to theſe offices as well as the natives. The twelve neceſſary for the determination of any proceſs, are choſen out of a very large number; which renders intrigues impoſſible; and indeed there has been

been no example of an attempt of this kind. By theſe means, the trials are at once quick and impartial. Linguet himſelf, who before he ſmarted for his patriotiſm, had undertaken the taſk of reviling every thing in England, was forced againſt his own inclination to pay to theſe juridical cuſtoms the tribute of his admiration. In a criminal trial, if the accuſed be a foreigner, the jury is compoſed of ſix Engliſhmen and ſix foreigners, whoſe names are communicated to him beforehand, to the end that he may be enabled to reject, without explaining his reaſons, any of them whom he ſuſpects to be his enemies.

Nothing is more aſtoniſhing than the mildneſs and humanity with which criminals are here treated, whether they be thieves, murderers, orincendiaries. Even if their guilt is evident, the bar, the jury, and the judges, all ſeem to conſpire for their acquittal. They ſearch the indictment for ſome trifling fault that may render it equivocal; a falſe ſurname, an indeterminate date, a ſingle letter omitted; all theſe are fatal to the proceſs, and will immediately put an end to it. The counſel defend the culprit with zeal, and the witneſſes againſt him are queſtioned with much ſtrictneſs, and ſometimes with much ſeverity. His own confeſſion is never demanded, and he can be convicted

victed by the evidence of credible witneſſes alone. It is repugnant to human nature to ſee a man bear teſtimony againſt himſelf; and this philoſophical maxim affords a ſtrange contraſt to the practice of thoſe tribunals of which torture is the grand reſource. When all the evidence is ended, it is permitted the accuſed to make his defence; and the greateſt attention is paid to every thing he ſays. If he is found guilty, a judge announces to him the puniſhment which the law inflicts on his offence, in a ſpeech which, ſo far from being compoſed of reproachful and reviling words, is generally filled with tender and compaſſionate expreſſions.

Colonel de la Mothe, the French ſpy, executed at London in 1782, who in his own country had been conſidered as a deſpicable wretch, was not a little ſurpriſed at the indulgence he experienced here. They ſent to him while in priſon the heads of the accuſation, that he might have time to prepare an anſwer. The moſt celebrated advocates undertook his defence without any fee. He received a liſt of the jury who were to try him; and, in a word, he was treated in ſuch a manner as if the public welfare was intereſted in his preſervation. The preſiding judge, after having with great mildneſs ſtated the care which

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the laws had ſhewn to his ſituation, ended with theſe words: "It is thus, ſir, that you have "been uſed in a country, where you had no "right to expect the leaſt favour: but ſuch are "the cuſtoms of a people whoſe deareſt intereſts "you have attempted to invade." Are not ſuch examples ſufficient to deſtroy thoſe vulgar prejudices, by which we are taught to believe that the manners of the Engliſh are barbarous? This is not the act of a few individuals, but of a nation, diſplayed in its conſtitution, its manners, its uſages, and its laws. Whoever ſearches into facts, and examines them with attention, muſt perceive the ſuperiority of the laws of England.

THE RIGHT OF BEING REPRESENTED IN PARLIAMENT.

Every freeholder, poſſeſſed of the annual rent of forty ſhillings per annum, has a right to vote at the election of the members of parliament for his own county. This right, however, is not always founded on the ſame claim, in the cities and boroughs. In ſome of them, every proprietor of a houſe has a vote; in others, only the members of the corporation. Some are allowed to name repreſentatives without poſſeſſing any land at all. The two univerſities of Oxford and Cam-

Cambridge poſſeſs this privilege, merely from the reſpect that the nation pays to learning and the ſciences.

The means of corruption give the court great influence at general elections: however, the laſt king could not prevent the patriotic party from making the moſt efficacious laws againſt this ſhameful abuſe, which is ſtill continued with impunity. For example, the candidate goes among the electors, buys all kinds of trifles, and pays for them very dearly; for inſtance, five guineas have been given for a whiſtle, a fowl, &c. &c. The ſhop-keepers know what this ſignifies, pocket the money, and give their votes in return. As this is entirely a matter of ſpeculation, it often happens that the candidate waſtes prodigious ſums in vain, when the influence of his rival happens to be greater than his own. Fordyce the famous banker expended 30,000 l. in an attempt of this kind; and then, imagining that injuſtice had been done him, had the folly to embark in a proceſs equally expenſive, in conſequence of which many hundreds of the inhabitants were ſent to London to appear as evidence. This ſecond attempt, however, had the ſame fate as the firſt, and did not a little contribute to his total ruin. The regard in which a member of parliament is held

held there, and his influence on public affairs, more eſpecially if he poſſeſſes eloquence—that eloquence which leads to the firſt offices of the ſtate—have ſuch powerful attractions to an Engliſhman, that they induce him to make aſtoniſhing efforts to obtain a place in the ſenate of his country. One of the principal reaſons of modern venality proceeds from the great number of nabobs, who, on their return from India, attempt at any price to purchaſe a ſeat in parliament; and this is alſo the cauſe of the impunity which they experience, for the enormous crimes committed in that part of the world.

There cannot be a more aſtoniſhing contraſt between any two civilized nations, than that with reſpect to Italy and England. The Italians celebrate almoſt every day in the year a religious holiday; the Engliſh, a political feſtival. The latter is as little known in Italy, as the former in England. Nothing is more common in that iſland than meetings, proceſſions, and other teſtimonies of public joy, which intereſt in a very lively manner all thoſe who are acquainted with the reaſons of them; but the fineſt and moſt extraordinary of all is, without contradiction, a general election. One may then be-

hold the ſame ſcenes which were exhibited in ancient Rome, when the people choſe their new magiſtrates. Thoſe of the very firſt rank, who by their wealth and their talents deſerve to be reckoned among the chief perſons in the ſtate, go about ſoliciting the meaneſt of the people for their votes—The handſome ducheſs of Devonſhire herſelf was not aſhamed to entreat the loweſt ſhopkeepers in Weſtminſter, in behalf of Mr. Fox. That charming lady's motive was not to obligé this unquiet and turbulent ſtateſman, but to pleaſe the prince of Wales, who intereſted himſelf in his election.

The appointed day being arrived, all the electors aſſemble in bodies, and range themſelves under their reſpective colours. The candidates walk in proceſſion, accompanied by a crowd of their friends, and the different parties are diſtinguiſhed from each other by the ribbands worn in their hats. Before each are carried colours, on which the name of the candidate and his device are painted. Theſe proceſſions, conſiſting of ſome thouſands of men, and which, in London in particular, have always a hundred thouſand ſpectators, are made without the aſſiſtance of armed ſoldiers, or the officers of juſtice, the preſence

preſence of whom is regarded as indiſpenſable in other countries and who, for the moſt part, do more ill than good.

The candidates having aſcended a kind of amphitheatre, covered with tapeſtry, and erected on purpoſe, harangue the people as the Roman orators did formerly in the forum. After this the names of the electors are regiſtered without diſtinction of rank or age, and a majority of their votes determines the election of him who, by his new dignity, is empowered to watch over the intereſts and ſafety of the ſtate, and to enact or annul the laws of his country. On theſe occaſions, however great the tumult may be among a people who enjoy ſo much liberty, there very ſeldom happens any ſerious affray, ſo much difference is there between a people accuſtomed to abandon themſelves entirely, and without fear, to the impulſe of their own breaſts, and thoſe unfortunate men, who, bending under the yoke of a frightful deſpotiſm, fall into the moſt guilty exceſs the moment that they perceive their chains either broken or relaxed. One neither perceives the glittering of ſwords or of piſtols in the political liſts of the Engliſh, however great the animoſity of the combatants.

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The choice being made, the victorious candidate is brought to his own houſe in triumph. On his election Mr. Fox, in alluſion to his ſupport from the fair ſex, dedicated a banner to them with this motto, "*Sacred to female patriotiſm.*"

I myſelf was preſent, and never beheld a ſpectacle which affected me ſo much, or which, in my opinion, was capable of conveying to the human mind ſuch a noble degree of energy. A celebrated French author, who was alſo there, obſerves, "My ſatisfaction was complete, when I "recollected that this univerſal homage was paid "to a ſimple individual, without dignities and "without power, ſupported only by his own "courage, his own zeal, and the attachment of "his friends; that the ſame man, the object of "this cavalcade and of theſe honours, thus re-"compenſed for his ſervices to the people, and "his oppoſition to the miniſters of the crown, "would, in every other country, have groaned "under perſecutions; that he would, perhaps, "have terminated his life in a dungeon; that "in place of this pomp, which ſeemed to elevate "him above mortality, an arbitrary order would "have precipitated him, with the greateſt igno-"miny, into the abyſſes of a Baſtile or a Spandau, "or exiled him into the deſerts of Siberia. What

"a leſſon! How truly does it juſtify the pride "of Engliſhmen! How well does it excuſe that "preference which ſo many great men have even "involuntarily given to their conſtitution above "all others!"

It is a certain fact, that thoſe elections greatly augment the haughtineſs of the Engliſh, and inſpire them with high ideas of equality. I was witneſs, at a conteſt for the town of Newcaſtle, to a very ſingular circumſtance. Two candidates had offered themſelves for this place: the one was the friend and relation of the late duke of Northumberland, who went there on purpoſe to aſſiſt him, and engage the people in his intereſts: the other was patronized by a merchant of London, of the name of Smith, who had acquired a fortune of 100,000l. in the coal-trade, and had a conſiderable intereſt among the inhabitants. The duke of Northumberland, who, beſides the advantages of his rank and fortune, had alſo occupied ſome of the moſt diſtinguiſhed ſituations in the ſtate, did not imagine that ſuch a man could oppoſe him with any probability of ſucceſs. However, on his arrival at Newcaſtle he was ſoon convinced of his miſtake. In conſequence of this he ſent for Mr. Smith, who obſerved, that he had no buſineſs with the duke, and that his grace

grace muſt wait upon him. The duke actually complied, and ſaid, that if he would allow his relation to repreſent the borough, his friend ſhould be returned for a town in the neighbourhood that was entirely at his own diſpoſal. Smith upon this roughly refuſed his grace's propoſition, ſaying, "I have promiſed "my friend that he ſhall repreſent this place, "and no other; and I am not in the habits of "breaking my word." "Very well," replied the duke, "it only remains that we ſhould try "our ſtrength," and immediately departed. In fine, each uſed his utmoſt efforts; but the coal-merchant's candidate was elected in ſpite of all the intereſt of the lord lieutenant of the county, whoſe little credit became the ſubject of ridicule.

In regard to parliament, the great abuſe conſiſts in the inequality of the repreſentation of the people in the Houſe of Commons. Venality exiſts but in a ſmall degree in the great cities, and is but of little conſequence. What man is able to corrupt an almoſt innumerable crowd, who live at their eaſe, who are as rich, and oftentimes more ſo, than the candidates who ſolicit them? It was a project truly patriotic, and well worthy of the ſon of the great William Pitt, to attempt

a reformation in regard to the little boroughs. Is it not the height of folly to behold towns which have 40,000 inhabitants, and ſometimes even more, without a ſingle member, while a few miſerable hamlets have a repreſentation equal to the moſt conſiderable cities? London, which ought to ſend forty members, ſends only four. Mancheſter, Birmingham, and a great number of other places whoſe manufactures and commerce render England ſo flouriſhing, ſend not even one. This ſcheme of Mr. Pitt, which tended to ſupport the political conſtitution of his country, then on the brink of ruin, was evidently dictated by the greateſt propriety. Lord North and his colleagues, however, oppoſed him: for corruption would have been annihilated, and all their power had this fatal ſyſtem for its baſis. As long as the ſovereign does not ſeek to extend the privileges of the crown ſo as to infringe on the conſtitution, this reformation can never do him any hurt. During the glorious adminiſtration of the immortal Chatham, he never had recourſe to miniſterial authority or the tricks of office; he ſcorned the arts of influence and corruption.

PRIVILEGE OF PUBLIC REMONSTRANCES.

In the year 1775, the king wiſhed that a criminal condemned to death ſhould not ſuffer at Tyburn, but be executed out of town, and before the very houſe where he had committed the burglary. His majeſty's deſire was notified accordingly by the ſecretary of ſtate to the ſheriffs of the county of Middleſex. In all other countries, they would have regarded with mere indifference the place where the culprit was to have been executed; but they think differently in England. The ſheriffs refuſed to obey. An order drawn up with more preciſion had not a better effect; on the contrary, they preſented an humble remonſtrance to the king, wherein they gave the moſt ſolid reaſons for their diſobedience. They ſaid, among other things, that if the place of puniſhment was changed at pleaſure, this would by and by produce an abuſe which would ſap the fundamental laws of the realm. Theſe executions might be made, ſometimes in town, ſometimes in the country; in a public place, in this or that ſtreet, and at laſt even in a houſe; from whence it would happen, that they might ſoon

ceaſe to be public, a circumſtance ſo neceſſary in a free country. The ſheriffs accordingly perſiſted in their refuſal, and their conduct well deſerved the thanks of the whole nation.

They are deceived who imagine that the ſituation of a king of England is diſagreeable: on the contrary, if it were ever poſſible that a crown could confer happineſs on the wearer, a ſovereign of England, *if he ſo inclines*, may enjoy this advantage in a peculiar manner. He poſſeſſes great and extraordinary privileges; indeed, the chief magiſtrate of no free people, either ancient or modern, ever had ſuch extenſive rights. Without appealing to remote times, let us only mention the ſtadtholders of Holland, the predeceſſors of the preſent king of Sweden, and the ſovereigns of Poland; with theſe let us compare an Engliſh monarch, and we ſhall immediately perceive the difference.

He is empowered, without conſulting his parlia-

parliament, to contract alliances, to declare war, and to make peace; to receive and appoint ambaſſadors and miniſters, and to enliſt troops: he can aſſemble parliament when he pleaſes, prorogue it, appoint the place for it to meet in, and even diſſolve it entirely. All new laws muſt have his ſanction: if they have been acceded to by both the other branches of the legiſlature, the refuſal of his conſent immediately annihilates them; nor is it neceſſary that he ſhould aſſign any reaſon for his conduct. He poſſeſſes the excluſive privilege of appointing the officers by ſea and land; the magiſtrates, the miniſters, the judges of the crown; the archbiſhops, biſhops, and other eccleſiaſtics: he can ennoble; grant a pardon to criminals; found univerſities, colleges, hoſpitals, and eſtabliſh fairs: he has the ſole privilege of iſſuing proclamations: he is the guardian of all the fools in the kingdom, and he inherits the eſtates of all thoſe who die without heirs. All the wrecks of which the owners are unknown belong to him, as well as the land left by the receding of the ocean. He can enact eccleſiaſtical laws, eſtabliſh ceremonies for the church, convoke provincial and national ſynods, &c. When a king of England is contented with the peaceable enjoyment of theſe eminent advan-

tages, without trenching on thoſe of the nation, he may entirely confide in the adminiſtration of his miniſters, who are anſwerable for every thing. "*That the king can do no wrong*," is a maxim among the Engliſh miniſters.

As the attacks upon them are almoſt always accompanied with the moſt poignant perſonalities, it is evident that a great portion of phlegm is in this country one of the greateſt virtues in a miniſter. Lord North poſſeſſed this in an eminent degree. During his long adminiſtration he ſeems to have adopted the principle of the duke of Orleans, regent of France: "Let "them ſpeak as long as they allow us to act." It is aſſerted, that a party in oppoſition to the court is abſolutely neceſſary in the Engliſh parliament: this is what made the celebrated Sir Robert Walpole affirm, "That if "ſuch a party had not been already formed, he "would have raiſed one with the public money."

The leaſt perſonal offence offered to the king, is high treaſon. He himſelf is ſo little bound down in the exerciſe of his prerogative, that, without conſulting any one, he can appoint a common ſailor to be lord high admiral of England, and tranſlate a country curate to the ſee of Canterbury.

Canterbury. But if the power of the ſovereign is unbounded in doing good, on the other hand it is ſtrictly limited as to evil. He dares not, without infringing the laws, command one of his poſtillions to be chaſtiſed. Neither can he tack conditions to the favours which he grants; nor add to the quantum of puniſhment which he orders to be inflicted.

This line of demarcation is without doubt the groundwork of the conſtitution. The ſovereign, having the executive power in his own hands, can apply to the management of public affairs both with celerity and diſpatch, and exhibit a ſalutary uniformity in the exerciſe of the laws. When we compare with this the ſlowneſs and prolixity with which other free ſtates manage their affairs, we ſhall perceive the numerous advantages reſulting from ſuch a conſtitution.

At no period ſince the Revolution, have ſo many and ſuch ſucceſsful attempts been made in favour of the prerogative as during the preſent reign. From the commencement of lord North's adminiſtration, till his diſmiſſion in 1782, the parliament was entirely governed by the crown, and every propoſition of the miniſter confirmed by a decided majority. Such a conſtant acqui-

eſcence on the part of the Commons, and that too at a time when the people were diſcontented, is a circumſtance unexampled in their hiſtory. The character of the ſovereign was the ſole cauſe of this. It is alſo probable, that it was a trait of this ſingular character which ſeldom occurs in a ſubject, and ſtill leſs frequently on a throne, that gave to lord Bute ſuch an aſcendency over him. This nobleman, who at the beginning of the preſent reign was placed at the head of affairs, is, perhaps, the ſole cauſe of all the misfortunes which have happened to England for theſe laſt twenty years.

Without being either generous or attached to wealth, the king has nevertheleſs a decided averſion to luxury. No ſovereign in Europe is ſo badly lodged, keeps ſo poor a table, or ſacrifices ſo little to his pleaſures. The œconomy of the court is ſuch, that I myſelf was preſent at a ball at St. James's, when the apartments were lighted with tallow candles, which for a long time have been baniſhed from all the genteel houſes in London.

With a revenue of 900,000 l. ſterling per annum, which belongs to the civil liſt, to which may be added 300,000 l. ariſing from his foreign dominions

dominions and other contingencies, one may be tempted to imagine that the king poſſeſſes immenſe treaſures *, notwithſtanding he ſeems, from time to time, to be overwhelmed with debts, which the parliament is obliged to pay. Behold then that enigma explained, without which it would have been neceſſary to have added a commentary.

Lord North adopted the plan of the earl of Bute, and, during eleven years of a ſhameful adminiſtration, precipitated his country, from the flouriſhing ſtate in which he found it, into the unhappy condition in which it ſtill languiſhes. This ſtateſman is not eminent for his eloquence, and far leſs for the greatneſs of his deſigns; but he excels in little artifices, and talents peculiarly calculated for intrigue. By means of theſe he at laſt governed the parliament, and realized his own projects of ambition. He was ſeconded in all his ſchemes by the other miniſters, who were in every point of view worthy of their chief. Who has not heard of a Germaine, branded and diſhonoured by a council of war, a Sandwich,

* Certain circumſtances have occurred ſince the publication of the original, which fully confirm the conjectures of M. d'Archenholz.

a Rigby, and many others, whoſe real characters the king alone ſeemed to be unacquainted with? A writer of ſome celebrity has attempted to inveſtigate the reaſons, and has narrated a number of ſingular anecdotes to explain the cauſe of the reciprocal averſion that now exiſts between the king and lord North. It is, however, unneceſſary to ſearch for the ſecret and extraordinary reaſons of an enmity, of which the motives are ſo perceptible.

The king for a long time imagined that he at laſt poſſeſſed in his lordſhip a miniſter who was attached to his intereſts; and he could not be perſuaded to the contrary, ſo long as his lordſhip was at the head of affairs: he was, however, ſcarcely diſmiſſed, when his majeſty received the moſt convincing proofs of his venal adminiſtration. The eſteem which the ſovereign had till that moment entertained for him, immediately changed to contempt; and this change was the more inſupportable to the ex-miniſter, as he had received hopes that he might one day be again admitted into power. On this he immediately threw off his diſguiſe, and ſhewed himſelf, as it were for the firſt time, in his own proper form.

The idea of liberty, and the conſciouſneſs of protection

protection from the laws, are the reaſons why the people in general teſtify but little reſpect for their ſuperiors, and even for thoſe in the higheſt offices, unleſs they have acquired their affections by affable and popular manners. That perfect equality, with which nature has formed mankind, is apparent in all the words and actions of theſe proud iſlanders; neither dignities nor riches are able to efface it. The very majeſty of the throne is not always ſufficiently reſpected. The Engliſh conſider the ſovereign as only the firſt magiſtrate in their ſervice.

The nobility, who in all other countries claim reſpect and ſubmiſſion from their inferiors, dare not form ſuch pretenſions there. The ſpirit of liberty, which that claſs of men ſuck in with their very milk, teaches them to regard all the privileges of their fellow ſubjects as ſacred.

No miniſter (notwithſtanding the very caprices of ſuch men often decide in other countries the fate of a whole nation), no grandee of the kingdom, will pretend to make any of the populace give way to him in the ſtreet; and, notwithſtanding this, they every day walk through the moſt crowded parts of the metropolis, where they find themſelves ſplaſhed, ſqueezed, and elbowed,

without having the leaſt wiſh to complain. The vaineſt Engliſhman will converſe freely with the loweſt of his fellow-citizens; he will take part in their diverſions; and as in England they do not meaſure the difference of conditions by our ſcale, it is not at all unuſual to ſee two perſons quarrelling, between whoſe ſituations in life there is the greateſt diſparity.

It is true, that thoſe of the firſt rank in the ſtate have occaſion for the good offices of the loweſt of its members, to enable them to realize their ambitious hopes; and it is not at all rare, at the election of members of parliament, to ſee the pooreſt citizens receive letters from the moſt illuſtrious candidates, in which their votes are requeſted with the utmoſt obſequiouſneſs; and when they have yielded to theſe ſolicitations, they are always ſure of receiving others expreſſive of thanks. Have we not lately beheld the ducheſs of Devonſhire beſtowing her gold and her kiſſes for this purpoſe? that very ducheſs, of whom the celebrated Angelica Kauffman has ſaid, that ſhe looks ſo like one of the graces, as to realize in her own perſon all the ideas of the moſt fervid imagination.

This affectation of popularity, which ſo much aſtoniſhes

aſtoniſhes ſtrangers, proceeds from the very nature of the conſtitution of a free ſtate. The Greeks and the Romans experienced the ſame while their republics ſubſiſted. Does it not proceed from this, that the nobility of England are the moſt intelligent in Europe? They converſe familiarly with men of learning and artiſts, and recompenſe their labours in the moſt generous manner. But that which renders them the moſt worthy of praiſe, is the noble manner in which they ſupport their diſgrace at court: on theſe occaſions the zeal and attachment of their friends, inſtead of being diminiſhed, ſeems to be redoubled; and ſo far from loſing them with the favour of the ſovereign, they teſtify greater eſteem and attachment than before. It was thus that lord Chatham, who was obliged to reſign when the preſent king mounted the throne, was almoſt idolized by the people, who eſteemed and loved him before he loſt his place. His portrait was placed in every houſe as a tutelary divinity; the ſtreets, the taverns, the coffee-houſes, and the tea-gardens were called after his name, and the eye of every paſſenger was ſtruck with inſcriptions in honour of this great benefactor to the nation.

The Engliſh in general form a quite different idea

idea of honour and infamy from other Europeans. A man who is arreſted and impriſoned does not experience any inſult on that account, nor is the family of a criminal who has been put to death, ever rendered infamous. The laſt duke of Lancaſter but one, eſpouſed the daughter of an oſtler; ſhe ſurvived him for ſome years with the title of ducheſs dowager. The honour of the duke was not impeached on this account, and the ducheſs continued to frequent court like any other lady of quality. A man of diſtinction retorts one inſult by another, and pardons it without either being revenged, or fighting with the perſon who inſults him. The late duke of Bedford, after having occupied the firſt ſituations in the ſtate, was unmercifully horſe-whipped at a horſe-race *. Nevertheleſs, this did not prevent

* George II. was but imperfectly acquainted with the Engliſh language. Having received a letter from admiral Sir Edward Hawke, after his celebrated victory over the French fleet, in which he informed his majeſty, in the blunt but expreſſive language of a Britiſh tar, that he had given the enemy a "DRUBBING;" the king requeſted of lord Cheſterfield that he would explain the meaning of the word. The witty earl, at this queſtion, pointing to the duke of Bedford, whoſe enemy he was, gravely aſſured his majeſty, that no man in the kingdom could better ſatisfy his curioſity in regard to that article than his grace.

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him in 1762· from being appointed ambaſſador extraordinary to the court of France, where he ſigned the famous peace of Verſailles. The populace among us, who poſſeſs a very different idea of honour, would not ſcruple to aſſert that this manner of thinking proceeds from a want of delicacy, and a prevalence of rude and ſavage manners. The philoſopher, on the contrary, who is able to diſcover among the Engliſh a high degree of this very delicacy, who finds it carried even to the higheſt pitch of perfection, and who diſcovers no tincture of rudeneſs in the manners of this enlightened people—the philoſopher, I ſay, will, like them, view the laws of honour in a different light.

Every ſubject in a monarchy trembles on account of the moſt trifling circumſtance. The moſt indifferent action, a ſingle word, ſometimes even a ſuppoſition, are ſufficient to deprive the miſerable wretch of his ſubſiſtence; nay, it often coſts him his fortune, ſometimes his life. Upon the leaſt of theſe events the welfare and exiſtence of a family depend: they, therefore, affect an uncommon refinement in manners; and from thence it happens, that the moſt ridiculous prejudices often regulate the laws of

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that phantom to which they give the name of honour.

But in a republic, where theſe ideas loſe a great deal of their force, where the citizen is ignorant of a thouſand conſiderations of which the ſubject of a monarchy never dares to loſe ſight;—in a republic this is entirely different. It is to the Greeks and the Romans that I ſhall appeal: at a time when their civilization was at the higheſt degree of perfection, they thought exactly on that ſubject as the people of England do at the preſent day.

The Engliſh look on hypocriſy as the moſt deſpicable of all vices; and from this proceeds that boldneſs of ſpeech, which, if not ſoftened a little by the choice of expreſſions, would paſs for rudeneſs. It is to their excellent conſtitution that they owe a frankneſs of character which is at once ſo rare and ſo ineſtimable, and which, among them, is generally accompanied with an unſhaken courage and a determined reſolution. It is not uncommon to hear expreſſions both in their courts of juſtice and in parliament, for which one would be tempted to imagine that the party attacked could never be revenged but by the blood of

of his adverſary: theſe circumſtances, however, are ſeldom attended with unhappy conſequences. How, indeed, could the parliament of England exiſt without this? The ſtranger who thinks that theſe ſallies are blameable, has ſurely never reflected on the nature of a free ſenate, where the uſeful muſt neceſſarily be preferred to the agreeable; where they do not meet to hear cold and formal ſpeeches dictated by cuſtom; and where it is impoſſible for the true patriot, whoſe ſoul is filled with the importance of the ſubject, to moderate his eloquence, and confine himſelf within the uneaſy ſhackles of a ſervile complaiſance.

One of the moſt violent of theſe parliamentary orators is captain Luttrell, a younger brother of the ducheſs of Cumberland. This forgetfulneſs of all the laws of politeneſs was ſo common to him, that, in a ſpeech in the year 1777, he concluded by wiſhing, that all kinds of barbarous and cruel tortures, which are the diſgrace of nations where they are ſtill practiſed, might be introduced into England, becauſe lord North could not then eſcape the wheel; and it would be, added he, "a real pleaſure for me to ſee his "bones broken by the hands of the execu-"tioner." Lord North, who was preſent, roſe with

with his uſual coolneſs, and contented himſelf by ſaying, with a ſigh, "that he had better ſeize "the preſent opportunity of ſpeaking, before he "ſhould be put to the rack."

This ſame Mr. Luttrell, the very next year, was engaged in a new quarrel with lord George Germaine. This nobleman, who after the battle of Minden had been diſhonoured by the ſentence of a court-martial, knew ſo well how to procure again the favour of the then government, that, unhappily for his country, he was appointed to a place in the miniſtry, and formed that ridiculous plan of operations for general Burgoyne, which occaſioned the loſs of all his army at Saratoga. Luttrell reproached him in full parliament with having been declared infamous; aſſerted that he had behaved, during the German war, with all the cowardice of a woman; and accompanied theſe reproaches with ſo many acrimonious reflections, that at laſt old Germaine loſt all patience: however, amidſt all the tranſports of his rage, he contented himſelf with calling him a *buffoon*. His opponent's behaviour, however, was ſo contrary to the rules of the houſe, that it occaſioned a great diſturbance. Luttrell, who foreſaw the conſequence, left his ſeat, and mingled with the crowd in the gallery, from whence

whence he could hear what paſſed below. The ſpeaker beſought the members to help him to appeaſe the tumult. Germaine acquieſces, but his adverſary is gone. His abſence augments the noiſe, until at laſt he is diſcovered. He is then ordered to deſcend;—he obeys, but refuſes to make any apology to lord George Germaine. At this refuſal, obſtinately perſiſted in on his part, a member of parliament gives it as his opinion, that he ought to be ſent to the Tower if he does not comply; but as it is impoſſible to put ſuch a motion to the vote, without being ſeconded, and as no one was at this moment diſpoſed to do ſo, Luttrell himſelf exclaims, "*I ſecond the* "*motion.*" On this mutual excuſes took place, and every thing remained quiet.

It is not at all uncommon to ſee two perſons, who have been abuſing each other, converſing in the moſt familiar manner after their departure from the houſe. It is only the heads of parties who are confined to rules, from which they never depart, and who deteſt each other with the utmoſt cordiality. The celebrated Edmund Burke, who has always ſhewn himſelf a man of principle, during the American war exhauſted all the metaphors of his brilliant imagination againſt the adminiſtration which conducted it; he one

one day finiſhed one of his violent ſpeeches, with the moſt dreadful maledictions againſt the miniſtry, and aſſured them, that the firſt thing he would teach his grand-children, when they began to liſp, would be alſo to curſe ſuch wretches. After having pronounced theſe words of peace, he left the aſſembly.

The loſs which the Engliſh ſupported with the greateſt difficulty, during the whole American war, was that of their army at Saratoga; for they had conceived not only the higheſt opinion of it, but alſo of the general who had the command. The unhappy cataſtrophe attending its captivity, was alſo the cauſe why France threw off the maſk, and declared the Americans a free people.

Burgoyne was permitted to return to Europe on his parole, to undertake his own defence; but was denied the liberty of ſeeing the ſovereign, under pretence of being a priſoner. This circumſtance was even urged to prevent him from taking his ſeat in the Houſe of Commons: however, the latter attempt proved unſucceſsful. Burgoyne there tried to juſtify his conduct, but in a general and vague manner, as he ſtill wiſhed to ſcreen the miniſters: they, however, being

anxious alone for their own preſervation, kept no meaſures with him, and forced this unfortunate man, who is one of the few Engliſh officers who underſtand any thing of military tacticks, to reſign all his employments.

Burgoyne upon this appealed to the nation at large, in a memorial which is a maſterpiece, not only on account of the matter which it contains, but alſo from the affecting manner in which it is compoſed. In this production he fully developes the ignorance and baſeneſs of the miniſters. He had before repreſented the impoſſibility of penetrating with his little army through the woods of America; but ſo far from attending to his judicious remonſtrances, they were pleaſed to reiterate their orders in the moſt poſitive terms to attempt the undertaking. Burgoyne was a ſoldier;—he ſaw himſelf ruined beyond hope, but he felt it his duty to obey. He imagined that, by thus ſacrificing himſelf and his little army, the miniſters intended to realiſe ſchemes of a much greater importance to the nation. As a citizen, his own private feelings were loſt in the intereſts of the ſtate; and as a warrior, he was obliged to conſole himſelf with the idea, that the braveſt

braveſt commanders had often experienced the ſame fate.

This production of general Burgoyne's, accompanied with documents which prove all that he has aſſerted, ſtill remains unanſwered.

CHAP-

CHAPTER II.

National Pride—Character—Anecdote concerning ſome German Emigrants—General Knowledge—Liberty of the Preſs—Newſpapers—Letters of Junius—Mr. Horne Tooke—The Abuſe of the Public Prints—Their Utility—Hiſtory and Character of Mr. Wilkes—Alderman Croſby—His Impriſonment in the Tower—His Releaſe and Triumph.

THE national pride of the Engliſh is a natural conſequence of a political conſtitution, by which every citizen is exempted from any other dependence than that impoſed by the laws.

This pride is carried among them to a great length. Indeed, how is it poſſible to know

and to feel all the merit of ſuch a ſyſtem of liberty, without attaching an uncommon value to it? This ſame ſentiment, with which we ſo violently reproach the Engliſh of the preſent times, has always been felt by the moſt enlightened nations in the world.

The Greeks and Romans carried it ſtill farther. This laudable pride, which with them was united to a lively and fervid patriotiſm, occaſioned thoſe heroic actions which will for ever be engraved in the records of immortality. If the modern hiſtory of England be equally filled with glorious achievements, it is to a love of their country that all this ought to be aſcribed; a love which, carried to the extreme, as it has been, by thoſe haughty iſlanders, cannot be conceived without a certain degree of contempt for thoſe nations who do not poſſeſs ſimilar ſenſations.

This fault, if it is one, is ſtill more common amongſt the Spaniards than them; but being founded on no ſolid grounds, it has become very juſtly a ſubject of ridicule. The Engliſh themſelves are hated on this account, although their very enemies, at the bottom of their hearts, pay tribute to their extraordinary merit. — Envy will

will glide into nations, as well as individuals.

There are, perhaps, no people in Europe who poſſeſs ſo much natural pride as the French: it will be eaſy, with a little penetration, to reconcile this with that urbanity and thoſe polite manners for which they are ſo diſtinguiſhed. It is under this maſk that the ſly Frenchman conceals thoſe marks of envy with which he views his Engliſh neighbours.

It was this offenſive pride of the Engliſh that ſo many nations ſtrove to humble during the American war. Many even of the ſtates of Germany, among whom the ſpirit of imitation exerciſes ſuch a deſpotic rule, that they neither think, live, nor exiſt but after the French, were animated with the ſame deſire. They carried their madneſs ſo far as to forget the blood and the treaſures, which that nation, in the preſent century, has ſacrificed for the advantage and repoſe of their country. They even wiſhed, without knowing why, to ſee the ſource of her greatneſs dried up.

It ought, however, to be remarked, that the

principal members of the empire, guided by a more ſound and judicious policy, trembled for England; even Switzerland, which was neither connected with her by politics nor commerce, offered up continual vows for her preſervation.

A traveller, more eſpecially if he paſſes immediately from France into Great Britain, in looking for that politeneſs at once ſo ſplendid and ſo trifling, which he has been uſed to, will not fail to imagine the Engliſh rude and uncultivated; and this merely becauſe he does not give himſelf the trouble to ſearch beyond the ſurface of their character.

Groſley, a member of the French academy, recounts, with ſome humour, in one of his letters, a circumſtance that happened to him. He had gone to England, prejudiced with the idea, that he was about to viſit the moſt unpoliſhed nation in Europe. A few days after his arrival he went to the theatre. The pit was very crowded; and being there alone, and exceedingly inquiſitive, he began to recollect the little Engliſh of which he was maſter, and put ſeveral queſtions to the perſon next him. His

neighbour, who did not underſtand a word of the jargon which he uttered, riſes precipitately, turns his back to him and departs. Groſley was but little ſurpriſed at this conduct, ſo extremely ungenteel in appearance, and which, for ſome moments, only ſerved to confirm him in his former opinion: but he was ſoon put to the bluſh when he ſaw the Engliſhman return. This good-natured man had perceived at the other end of the pit, one of his friends who ſpoke French; and having pierced the crowd which ſeparated them, he returned with much difficulty, leading him in his hand.—I aſk, whether this is true politeneſs or not? A Frenchmen, by paying him a handſome compliment, would have imagined that he had done enough; the Engliſhman, on the contrary, thought that he ought to do more, and he accordingly did it. If it is then in actions, and not in ſimple words that real urbanity conſiſts, one is obliged to confeſs that the Engliſh are the moſt poliſhed nation in Europe.

The principle of ſuch actions is there alſo more pure, becauſe a beggar has no occaſion to humble himſelf before the moſt wealthy, and a citizen in eaſy circumſtances knows no bounds to his independence.

The moral character of the Engliſh has indeed degenerated, but, notwithſtanding this, it is ſtill eſtimable; for it is not from its parliaments, its oriental depredators, and the crews of its privateers, who all aim at a certain end, that we ought to judge of the nation. Many members of parliament aſpire at eminent ſituations, and allow themſelves to be corrupted; ſo alſo do the adventurers who leave Europe with an intention to plunder Aſia; and it is the very nature of pirates to rob and ſlaughter.

Is it from the refuſe of a community that we are to imbibe our opinions of the moral character of a people, or from a multitude of godlike actions, which are performed every day, by thouſands in this iſland?

An extraordinary event, which occurred a few years ſince, will ſerve to elucidate the noble and generous manner of thinking among the Engliſh. The emigrations from the empire, of which ſuch ſad complaints are made, even at this day, and which are founded on reaſons partly juſt, and partly imaginary, gave an opportunity to a German gentleman to form a very ſingular ſcheme.

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The name of this projector, and his intentions, are ſtill unknown; the arts alſo which he practiſed to put in execution ſuch a well-concerted plan, are equally obſcure: it is, however, certain that a common genius durſt never imagine, far leſs be able to put in execution, an enterpriſe of this nature. In the year 1765, he went to England at the head of 800 adventurers, conſiſting of men, women, and children, whom he had collected in the Palatinate, Franconia, and Suabia, by promiſing them that they would be much more happy in the Engliſh colonies.

On their arrival at the port of London, this ſingular man diſappeared, and has never ſince been heard of.

At once miſerable and diſappointed, theſe unfortunate wretches, neither knowing the language, nor being acquainted with any of the inhabitants, and with only a few rags to cover them, were entirely bewildered in that extenſive capital. Without an aſylum, without even bread for their children, who aſked for it with the moſt piercing cries, they knew not to whom they could addreſs themſelves.

In hopes of a leſs cruel deſtiny, they lay down in the open air, in the midſt of thoſe ſtreets neareſt to the wharf where they had been landed. In every other city, even in Paris itſelf, the unexpected arrival of a colony of eight hundred perſons, would have been talked of every where, and proper meaſures taken accordingly: but the landing of ſuch a numerous body was for a long time unknown in London. The inhabitants, indeed, of that part of the town, and alſo the paſſengers, were greatly aſtoniſhed at the appearance of this ſingular groupe, who bewailed their misfortunes in an unknown language; but not being able to diſcover the cauſe, they gave themſelves but little concern on the ſubject.

Two days paſſed in this manner, and theſe poor people remained expoſed to the inclemency of the elements, and the cravings of hunger. Some died for want, on the third day. Their miſery was now at the extreme, for their arrival was unknown any where elſe than in this little corner of the ſuburbs: not a ſingle word of it had tranſpired either in the city or Weſtminſter.

The inhabitants in the neighbourhood were not,

not, however, unfeeling ſpectators of ſo many calamities: they aided them as far as they were able; but what are the feeble ſuccours of poverty at ſuch a criſis? The bakers were accuſtomed to ſend their ſervants every morning loaded with baſkets of bread, which they diſtributed according to the directions of their maſters. One of theſe happening to paſs near the place where theſe emigrants were encamped, heard that they had been ſeveral hours without any ſubſiſtence. "If it is ſo," ſays he, at the ſame time placing his pannier in the midſt of them, "our cuſtomers muſt have patience to-day; were "my maſter to loſe them all, he would not be "angry. I will," added he, "aid theſe poor crea-"tures if I pay for it out of my own wages."—I truſt that the behaviour of this man does not need a commentary.

The reverend Mr. Waſchel, a clergyman of the German church, who lived near to them, at laſt reſolved to advertiſe this ſingular event in the newſpapers. In a letter which he inſerted, and which was ſigned with his own name, he particularizes, in a moſt affecting detail, the miſery of his countrymen, and implores in their behalf the generous compaſſion of the Engliſh,

on which theſe wretches had ſo much relied when they left their native country. The effect of this was incredible and beyond expectation.

The morning papers are generally printed at eight o'clock; by nine a man arrives on horſeback from one of the moſt diſtant parts of Weſtminſter, and brings to Mr. Waſchel a bank note for 100 l. ſterling. The meſſenger would not mention the donor, but it was afterwards found to be the old counteſs of Cheſterfield, who performed ſo charitable an action.

This might be called the earneſt of the whole nation. It ſeemed to rain bank notes and guineas upon the good prieſt. Coffee-houſes were opened for ſubſcriptions, attendants were appointed to ſupply them with neceſſaries, as they themſelves were not able to buy them; phyſicians and apothecaries were aſſigned, and nurſes and interpreters appointed to them: in a word, the wants of this deſerted band were ſatisfied, their forlorn ſituation removed, and they themſelves inſpired with the ſweet hope of better proſpects before the middle of that very day.

In the mean time the ſubſcriptions continued open, and there never, perhaps, was ſuch a general contribution. There were but few rich people, of a certain rank, in all the kingdom, who did not aſſiſt on this occaſion. I myſelf have read the liſt of thoſe benefactors to my countrymen, and have counted more than twenty who gave a hundred pounds each, and ſome even more. The ſum total is unknown to me; it was, however, ſufficient to entertain this numerous body of people, during five months, in London; at the end of that period they were carried to Carolina, in veſſels hired for the purpoſe, and provided with proper neceſſaries. They had a very excellent paſſage to America, and received, at the inſtant of their arrival, not only every thing neceſſary for their eſtabliſhment, but alſo the remainder of the money which had been collected for them.

It may be imagined that the Germans, ſettled in London, ſhewed themſelves equally generous towards their countrymen as the Engliſh.—Not only thoſe in eaſy circumſtances, but even opulent people, to whom the nation had confided the care of theſe unfortunate wretches, received money for their ſervices out of the fund ariſing

from the ſubſcriptions, and charged at the higheſt rate!

It has been obſerved that the common people in England are more intelligent and judicious than in any other country. The free and unreſtrained manner in which they ſpeak and write, on every ſubject, is the real cauſe of this. One is aſtoniſhed to hear ſome of the very loweſt of the populace reaſon concerning the laws, the right of property, privileges, &c.

If the Engliſh * newſpapers generally contain a large portion of dull and trifling matter, on the other hand they often abound with paſſages worthy to be read and preſerved. Sometimes a politician will inſert an eſſay on a ſubject which concerns the welfare of the whole nation, and every body, even a fiſh-woman, is able to comprehend it. It is not at all uncommon to obſerve ſuch perſons reading and commenting on the public prints.

Beſides original intelligence, the prodigious

* In the year 1780, in London alone, 63,000 were printed every week.

number

number of advertiſements make them entertaining, and are often attended with the ſtrangeſt conſequences.

I knew a woman who ran away from her huſband after having robbed him. Without the aſſiſtance of the newſpapers the deſpair of this repentant wife would have been unknown, and the diſhonour of her ſpouſe made public; but a lucky advertiſement informed them of each other's ſituation, and their reconciliation was equally quick and ſecret. The huſband having given out that his wife was gone into the country, addreſſed a letter to her, without either inſerting her name or reſidence, but couched in ſuch terms, that ſhe could readily comprehend it. In this he promiſed to forget and forgive all that had happened; and ſhe having accidentally read the paper, ſent an anſwer by the ſame conveyance, mentioning her terms, and at the end of three days returned to him without having occaſioned the leaſt ſuſpicion by her abſence. The printer is paid for this kind of correſpondence, and in general all articles which rather intereſt individuals than the public. He neither inquires concerning the name, the buſineſs, the intentions, or place of reſidence of the advertiſer.

Thoſe

Thoſe ſpeculations which are written on national affairs and articles of intelligence are inſerted gratis. The author is always ſure of remaining undiſcovered by means of a box which opens towards the ſtreet, and through which any perſon may thruſt a manuſcript. If you chooſe to make yourſelf known to the printer, he is obliged to obſerve ſecrecy. Nothing can force him to violate this, for were he to do ſo, he would not only loſe his buſineſs, but alſo have his houſe expoſed to the fury of the populace.

He is obliged to anſwer for every thing he prints, whether it be a libel, a piece of ſcandal, or a paſquinade. The offence, in any of theſe caſes, will ſubject him to a proceſs. If the king or parliament is attacked, the attorney-general is the accuſer; and on ſuch occaſions it is not unuſual to ſee the publiſher defended by the moſt famous advocates at the bar.

Woodfall, the printer of the Public Advertiſer, once the moſt famous newſpaper in London, was tried on account of Junius's celebrated letter to the king, which is a maſter-piece of eloquence, boldneſs and truth. All England was intereſted in the iſſue, and the moſt famous lawyers

lawyers were employed, not ſimply to defend an individual, but to ſupport that inviolable liberty which every Engliſhman arrogates, of ſpeaking or writing openly and without reſerve his ſentiments of public affairs. Woodfall was declared innocent, and the proceſs terminated in ſuch a manner, as made it impoſſible to diſcover the ingenious author, whoſe name remains unknown to this very day. The critics pretend that it is the moſt perfect proſe compoſition in the Engliſh language. Certain expreſſions, and a peculiar kind of genius exhibited throughout the whole, have made ſome ſuppoſe that the celebrated Edmund Burke is this ſame Junius.

It is not at all uncommon to ſee a printer put in the pillory, or dragged to gaol: by naming the author they eſcape theſe indignities: this, however, they never do without his conſent. The reverend Mr. Horne Tooke, curate of Brentford, was ſo generous as to avow himſelf on an occaſion of this kind in the year 1778.

This ſingular perſon, who, as a man, a patriot, and an orator, has acquired ſuch high claims to the general eſteem, and to the remembrance of his fellow-citizens in particular, as the founder of

of that celebrated * ſociety, the end of which was to ſupport the rights and privileges of the nation, had, in a newſpaper, deſcribed the laſt war in America as a maſſacre; and the court party, who inſtituted and ſupported it, as ſo many aſſaſſins. The printer being proſecuted, and urged by the author, named him; and the intrepid clergyman was ſentenced to twelve months impriſonment. Reſpect for his profeſſion ſaved him from the pillory.

The manner in which the people often uſe the wretches condemned to this kind of puniſhment, renders it equally dangerous and diſgraceful. Sometimes, however, ſo far from being infamous, it becomes glorious and honourable. I myſelf ſaw ſuch a ſcene. It was a printer, who, while in the pillory, was attended by an innumerable multitude, by whom he was ſaluted with the utmoſt reſpect, and hailed with repeated acclamations. They brought him refreſhments, and, as he could not uſe his hands, they themſelves helped him. The pillory, which was crowned with garlands of flowers, was ſurrounded by perſons of the firſt rank, who diſcourſed familiarly with this lucky criminal; to

* The bill of Rights.

whom,

whom, if I may ſo expreſs myſelf, the pillory ſeemed a triumphal car; and however conſtrained the poſition in which he was obliged to ſtand for an hour, that hour might be eſteemed, perhaps, the moſt agreeable in his life.

In the year 1779, 4,500 numbers of the Public Advertiſer were printed every day during the winter, and 3,000 during the ſummer; and of the Daily Advertiſer, which contains little elſe but advertiſements, no leſs than 5,000 were circulated. This kind of buſineſs is extremely lucrative, and maintains, in the city of London alone, a prodigious multitude of perſons: one with great propriety may ſay, that a great number of idlers are by this means brought up to do nothing. Among theſe may be reckoned the paragraph writers, who go to the coffee-houſes and public places to pick up anecdotes and the news of the day, which they reduce into ſhort ſentences, and are paid in proportion to their number and authenticity. The ſpeeches in parliament are taken by a certain claſs of men who are known in no other country than England. The proficients in this art will not forget a ſingle word, however faſt the member may ſpeak: their manner of writing is by means of certain

certain ſigns, which not only expreſs words, but alſo whole ſentences.

A newſpaper is alſo printed by the court, under the title of the Gazette. It is dearer, and at the ſame time leſs intereſting, than any of the others. The editor of this is a man of ſome conſequence, and generally a member of parliament, who repays the emoluments attached to his office by voting with the miniſtry.

The Gazette contains all the acts of parliament; the petitions; the addreſſes of the counties and villages; the king's proclamations; a liſt of the promotions in the army and navy; the appointment to vacant employments, and all news of which they wiſh the people to be informed. During a war they inſert there the diſpatches from their generals and admirals, when they are flattering, taking care, however, to ſuppreſs all articles which may tend obliquely to cenſure themſelves. Every thing againſt their own party is ſuppreſſed.

Such was the practice of lord North. Lord Chatham followed an oppoſite method during his glorious adminiſtration. All the letters from the

the commanding officers were printed word for word, without the leaſt amendment or reſtriction: the public were informed of every thing even in the middle of the night. This manner of acting, at once ſo juſt and ſo candid, neceſſarily inſpired the nation with the moſt entire confidence in this great man.

It is to this paſſion among the Engliſh for reading, daily, the prodigious number of newſpapers and political pamphlets, that their extreme gravity and inſociable diſpoſition ought to be attributed.

In general nothing is more difficult than to make an Engliſhman ſpeak; he anſwers to every thing by *yes* and *no*; addreſs him, however, on ſome political ſubject, and he is ſuddenly animated; he opens his mouth, and becomes eloquent: for this ſeems to be connected from his infancy with his very exiſtence.

A foreigner will find himſelf exactly in the ſame predicament after a long reſidence in England. The ſame cauſe produces the ſame effect. I have known ſome, who, on their arrival in London, were entirely ignorant of politics, and who ſoon afterwards carried this taſte to enthu-

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fiaſm. This matter is eaſily explained: it is inequality of the citizen of a free ſtate and as a rational creature, that one becomes ſolicitous about public affairs. Many are often perſonally intereſted either by means of themſelves or others; ſome ſearch into the characters of thoſe who hold the reins of government; others are connected with them in the moſt intimate manner. Nothing but politics is heard in any ſociety: they talk of nothing but about meetings to conſider of the affairs of the ſtate, deputations to preſent petitions, remonſtrances, &c.

You may inſert your opinions on any public matter in the newſpapers, with a certainty of being read a thouſand times. All theſe circumſtances together inſpire one with a liveiy intereſt in the concerns of the kingdom, and occaſion the reading of the daily prints to be actually an epidemical paſſion among the Engliſh.

It is the cuſtom no where but in England, to converſe with every body about theſe publications. Strangers, therefore, are not qualified to judge of the excellence of theſe communications, but by the good effects that reſult from them. The anecdote of the German emigrants, which I have before mentioned, is a very convincing proof of

this. If compaſſion had been ſtimulated from every pulpit, or charity requeſted by ſound of drum, ſuch a generous donation could never have been obtained, as by means of a ſimple letter, read in all parts of London. The whole of that extenſive capital was at one and the ſame inſtant informed of this melancholy circumſtance, whereas a ſimple hearſay being always obſcure and equivocal, people of ſenſe would have paid no attention to it.

How many times have not the ſame means been employed to ſerve the purpoſes of patriotiſm, and to ſupport ſchemes combined with equal wiſdom and ſagacity! The greateſt bleſſings, unfortunately, from the very nature of things, have their concomitant diſadvantages, and ſo it is with the newſpapers.

Without adverting to the circumſtance of lord George Gordon, that dangerous fool, who, in 1780, made uſe of this means to aſſemble a mob, and put London in the moſt imminent danger, there are a number of rogues, who, by means of advertiſements, cheat the multitude in a thouſand different ways; and although the people are daily inſtructed by frequent examples, which

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ought to baniſh their credulity, they are ſtill diſpoſed to believe every impoſtor.

Among theſe are the money-lenders, who wiſh to advance ſums on good ſecurities; and who, after they have got poſſeſſion of the notes, bonds, &c. inſtantly diſappear and leave the perſon duped to lament his folly. Others make an affecting recital of the melancholy ſituation of a widow burthened with a large family; or of an old gentleman who languiſhes in the utmoſt miſery, and whoſe name they are obliged to conceal, on account of his extraction: they, however, never fail, with the moſt ſcrupulous exactneſs, to mention the place where donations will be received.

The public papers uſually abound with offers of large ſums to thoſe perſons who have ſufficient intereſt with the great, to procure lucrative employments: to this tranſaction inviolable ſecrecy is always pledged. Many authors alſo inſert criticiſms in them on their works, and next day attack their own judgments under a feigned name. Their ſole aim is to make a noiſe, and to be known, and they often attain it.

Women

Women of the town, under the maſk of the moſt ſcrupulous virtue, teſtify their wiſhes to procure a huſband of good character.

They never fail to add, that they are rich, young, and handſome; and affirm that they want nothing with their future ſpouſe, but a ſmall fortune, or a little employment. Young men bred in the country, and others without experience, often fall into the ſnare. On an interview, they find theſe bewitching creatures, who appear as mild and gentle as innocence itſelf, know how to affect their compaſſion, by a touching recital of the perſecutions of their relations or guardians; and never fail to make it appear clearly, that it would be the eaſieſt thing in the world to get poſſeſſion of their fortune. This ſtory has the proper effect; the ſimpleton believes every thing, and never finds, till too late, that he has been groſsly impoſed upon.

There are alſo male advertiſers, who make ſimilar propoſals; with this difference, however, that, inſtead of offering to ſhare a large fortune, they generally wiſh to meet a lady with one. If they are not able to enumerate a catalogue of their perſonal accompliſhments, they are ſure to boaſt of their good ſenſe, their excellent charac-

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ter; and, in one word, of their inclination to conſult, on all occaſions, the happineſs of their future wives. Theſe latter ſometimes ſucceed, but leſs frequently than the former.

Some people inſert advertiſements of this kind merely from paſtime. Under different ſignatures they pretend to want huſbands and wives, and manage interviews between the perſons who anſwer them; this often gives occaſion to the moſt comical ſcenes.

But no men know better how to profit by the newſpapers than the ſtock-jobbers. They declare war or peace at their pleaſure, ſign treaties of alliance, and fabricate events, which they ſeem to ſubſtantiate with ſo much addreſs, that they have all the appearance of reality. By ſuch arts, immenſe ſums are loſt and won every day.

From the newſpapers, which form a very lucrative branch of trade, the government have found means to draw one hundred thouſand pounds annually. Every paper pays three halfpence to the revenue in ſtamp-duty, and a tax of two ſhillings and ſixpence is impoſed on each advertiſement.

All

All periodical publications are charged with a certain impoſt, and among theſe the pamphlets that are daily printed and forgotten.

As I am now mentioning publications of this kind, I ſhall ſay ſomething of that celebrated paper called The North Briton. The forty-fifth number of this gave riſe to a very ſingular event; no publication, indeed, was ever attended with ſuch ſingular conſequences. It occaſioned a miſunderſtanding betwixt the people and the legiſlative power of that puiſſant empire, which laſted more than ten years, and put the conſtitution in the utmoſt danger. It robbed the king of the affections of his people, immortalized Wilkes the author, and eſtabliſhed miniſterial influence for ever.

As this circumſtance, ſo intereſting for the philoſopher, the politician, and every man of reflection, is not well known in Germany, and the conduct of Wilkes has been groſsly miſrepreſented, I imagine that it will not be improper here, to give a recital of the whole, equally true and circumſtantial.

The adminiſtration of lord Bute, which com-

menced with the reign of the preſent king, and which had for its firſt-fruits the unpopular peace of 1762, greatly diſpleaſed the nation. His lordſhip was a Scotſman; he diſmiſſed a great number of the Engliſh from their employments, to beſtow them on his countrymen; and this impolitic conduct greatly added to the general diſcontent. Wilkes happened then to be a member of the Houſe of Commons, in which he had ſat two former parliaments. He poſſeſſed a ſound judgment, an enlightened mind, a profound knowledge of the rights of the nation, a courage and a firmneſs that fitted him for any enterpriſe; he was, however, deſtitute of one quality of the greateſt importance in his ſituation: he was but a poor orator. After having diſſipated a conſiderable fortune, he ſolicited a lucrative poſt. Two ſorts of employment were the objects of his ambition; he wiſhed to be a governor of one of the American provinces, or ambaſſador to the Porte. He aſks one of theſe from lord Bute: that nobleman promiſes to gratify his inclinations, and diſappoints him. This conduct irritated Wilkes: as he wrote infinitely better than he ſpoke, he ſeized the pen, and cunningly profiting by the diſcontent of the people, attacked the miniſter. This was almoſt the ſole intention of the peri-

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odical paper, entitled The North Briton. The ſubject was ample, and the imprudent conduct of lord Bute furniſhed him with materials. That miniſter burnt with revenge, and wanted nothing but a favourable opportunity to gratify it; one ſoon preſented itſelf.

The ſpeech which the king makes to his parliament is always compoſed by the miniſter. Being firſt read and criticiſed in the council of ſtate, notwithſtanding it is delivered by the ſovereign, it may be conſidered as coming from the court party. His majeſty, when addreſſing himſelf to both houſes on the peace of Verſailles in 1762, made uſe of theſe expreſſions: "after "having, in concert with my good brother the "king of Pruſſia, ſigned the *peace*, &c." All thoſe who are the leaſt acquainted with the political hiſtory of the times, muſt recollect in what manner this peace was concerted betwixt them: it is an anecdote well known in England; therefore Wilkes did not heſitate to obſerve in one of his periodical papers, that the aſſertion was a *falſehood*. Lord Bute, under pretence that ſuch an expreſſion was a perſonal attack on the monarch, immediately cauſed him to be ſeized, and impriſoned in the Tower.

In this he followed the example of ſeveral of his predeceſſors, who before had exerted a ſimilar authority; with this difference, however, that it was always in caſes of *high treaſon*.

According to the *habeas corpus act*, the priſoner has a right to inveſtigate the proceſs againſt him, and ſee if his confinement is conformable to the laws of the land. Wilkes accordingly claimed that privilege a few days after.

The Engliſh nation was intereſted in the event, becauſe the rights of every citizen were affected by it. Wilkes, the champion of the people, ſupported by the firſt and moſt celebrated lawyers in the kingdom, preſents himſelf before his judges, accompanied by an innumerable multitude, who waited the iſſue of this important affair with the greateſt impatience. Judgment was given in his favour. He was declared innocent of the accuſation; and the lords Egremont and Hallifax, who had ſigned the warrant, were decreed to pay 5000l. ſterling as damages.

They had gone ſo far as to ſeize and examine his papers. Wilkes, therefore, the moment that he was releaſed, repairs to Sir John Fielding, a celebrated

celebrated juſtice of the peace, to requeſt from him a warrant to apprehend the two miniſters; whom he treated as thieves, who had pillaged his dwelling-houſe. The magiſtrate did not accede to this demand: however, the boldneſs of the proceeding did Mr. Wikes a great deal of honour.

In the mean time ſome of his papers gave his enemies, who were undoubtedly the moſt powerful men in the kingdom, an opportunity to commence a new proceſs againſt him. Being unwilling to wait the event, he leaves England, and travels through France and Italy. His proſecutors, profiting by his abſence, procure judgment againſt him; and a majority of the Houſe of Commons being in the intereſt of the court, he is expelled the parliament.

Being ſoon after deſtitute of money, and perſecuted by his foreign creditors, he finds himſelf conſtrained to return to his native country. He accordingly repairs to London, in conſequence of a bold plan which he had concerted; and the prudence and firmneſs with which he accompliſhed it, were at laſt crowned with the moſt complete ſucceſs. His firſt ſtep was to preſent himſelf before the court which had given judgment againſt him: there he receives a ſentence

of impriſonment for two years in the king's bench. He ſubmits to it, and goes to ſurrender himſelf: the populace however try to prevent him, and he is obliged to conceal himſelf in a tavern. His deſign was to remain there till the tumult was abated; but this was in vain. The houſe was actually beſieged; and the mob, inſtead of diſperſing, became every moment more numerous. Having remained till night, Wilkes, who was determined to obey the laws, put a ſcheme in execution which never had been practiſed before. We hear every day of people diſguiſing themſelves to eſcape out of priſon; but, till then, I believe, no one ever diſguiſed himſelf to get into one. This was actually done by him; and, in conſequence of it, he arrived in the king's bench.

This priſon, ſituated in St. George's Fields, was ſurrounded next day by a prodigious crowd. They intended to have demoliſhed this enormous maſs from its very foundation, and thus deliver their favourite. This project was about to be executed, when Wilkes appears at a window, and, by means of prayers and entreaties, prevents them. The tumult was not, however, appeaſed until the arrival of the military; who, by the blood of ſome of the ringleaders, put an end

end to the ſtrange ſcene. A young man of low extraction, called Allen, was killed on this occaſion. His death, which in any other country would have ſcarce been mentioned in a newſpaper, was treated as if it had been an affair of conſequence. The people became outrageous, moderate men murmured, the miniſters trembled, and the king himſelf was diſpleaſed with the event.

In the mean time Wilkes lived very comfortably in priſon. He received a number of viſits daily; perſons of the firſt rank and moſt diſtinguiſhed merit went to ſee him, and offer their ſervices.

His wants were ſupplied, and the ſociety called the Bill of Rights paid all the debts which he had contracted in England, and which were very conſiderable.

He was, at the ſame time, elected knight of the ſhire for the county of Middleſex.

His confinement in 1770 was the ſignal for new troubles. The Houſe of Commons, who looked on him as incapable of ſitting in parliament on account of his expulſion, choſe colonel

Luttrell, in his place, as repreſentative for the county of Middleſex, although that gentleman had but a few votes in his favour. This was looked upon as an attempt againſt the fundamental principles of the conſtitution; for all the legiſlative body united, and ſtill leſs the Houſe of Commons, have not power to reject a member choſen according to the proper forms.

Relying on the goodneſs of his cauſe, Wilkes defies the Commons, who were now abhorred by the whole nation, and treated by them in the moſt contemptuous manner. It would have been eaſy for him to have reſumed his place in the houſe, and to have maintained himſelf there by the aſſiſtance of an hundred thouſand of his adherents. Such an act of violence would have been attended with conſequences entirely different from thoſe of lord George Gordon's, whoſe party was compoſed entirely of the dregs of the people. Wilkes had, on the other hand, the beſt and wiſeſt part of the nation in his favour; nay, even a third of that very parliament which he bullied. Some of his friends adviſed him to carry things to extremities; but this he would not conſent to, and waited peaceably for a diſſolution of parliament.

Not-

Notwithſtanding the intrigues of the miniſtry he was, during theſe tranſactions, elected an alderman of London, appointed one of the ſheriffs of the county of Midleſex, and at laſt, in the year 1774, choſen lord mayor. His ambition was now fully ſatisfied, but the eſſential part of his ſcheme was ſtill unaccompliſhed;—he wiſhed to poſſeſs wealth, and he attained it. In the year 1778, he was elected to the important and lucrative office of chamberlain of the city; an appointment that entirely ſatisfied all his wiſhes.

If a deſign wiſely concerted, ſeconded by uncommon talents, by aſtoniſhing courage and firmneſs, and carried on to its completion with a perſeverance that nothing could diſhearten; if all theſe, I ſay, have a claim to our admiration, Wilkes ſurely is entitled to it.

Had he ſo pleaſed, he might have become the Catiline of his country: he abhorred the idea, and choſe to be her benefactor.

On more than one occaſion he has actually been ſo. During the lawleſs tumult, occaſioned by lord George Gordon, when the miniſtry trembled and remained inactive, and the magiſtrates durſt not leave their houſes, he was ſeen preſenting

himſelf to the tumultuous populace, and braving death itſelf to ſave the bank, which they were about to pillage. He made uſe of prayers, entreaties, and menaces by turns: he even went ſo far as to ſeize ſome of the ringleaders with his own hands. This behaviour, ſo courageous and ſo patriotic, reſtored him to the regard of his ſovereign, who, for twenty years, had vowed a mortal hatred againſt him. He is at this very moment one of the moſt active partizans of the miniſter.

It was in the year 1772, when Wilkes was only an alderman, that Croſby, then lord mayor, had a ſingular diſpute with the Houſe of Commons, which, if detailed with fidelity, would better characteriſe the conſtitution, the manners, and the ideas of the Engliſh than whole volumes written on the ſubject. Far from thinking that this anecdote compoſed part of the hiſtory of our own times, one would be tempted to imagine himſelf tranſported by the power of magic to ſome country of romance, or carried back to that happy period when the ſplendour of Rome and Greece ſhone unrivalled in the world. This event, and indeed almoſt every thing that concerns England, is only known in

Germany

Germany by means of the newſpapers, and therefore muſt be very little underſtood.

A pamphlet having been publiſhed, containing many reflections on the Houſe of Commons, they declared it a libel, and gave orders to the ſerjeant at arms to ſeize the two printers who had publiſhed it. This officer accordingly repairs to the city, where they happened to reſide, with an intention to execute the commiſſion. By his inſtructions, he was not to attend to the common forms, notwithſtanding it is illegal to arreſt any one in the city without having the warrant backed by the chief magiſtrate.

One of the printers allows himſelf to be taken without the leaſt reſiſtance. According to law, the priſoner muſt be carried before a juſtice of the peace, to ſee whether the detention is legal; and this the officer of the Houſe of Commons complied with, notwithſtanding his order was an emanation of the legiſlative authority.

On his arrival at Guildhall, Wilkes and Oliver happened to be on the bench. On examining the warrant, theſe two aldermen, obſerving

that Croſby's ſignature was not affixed, declare it to be informal, and releaſe the printer.

The ſerjeant at arms, covered with confuſion, departs to look after the other culprit, with whom he hopes to be more fortunate: for, as it was now dinner-time, he imagined that theſe two magiſtrates would depart; and hoped, on his return, to find others more compliant.

Full of this idea, he goes to the other printer; but he being better acquainted with the laws, inſiſts on ſeeing the warrant; and not finding it ſigned by the lord mayor, he immediately ſends for a conſtable, ſecures the officer, and accompanies him to Guildhall, attended by a prodigious crowd. The aldermen being gone to dine with the lord mayor, the priſoner is conducted to the manſion-houſe.

Croſby had the reputation of being a worthy man, but his knowledge was very ſuperficial. It was only on account of his ſeniority and his wealth that he had been appointed to the high office which he then filled. His ambition was limited, and ſo was alſo his patriotiſm. His advanced age made him ſigh after repoſe, and he had

had no wiſh for any thing elſe. The iſſue of this affair would, therefore, have been entirely different, if he had been allowed to proceed according to his own inclination: he was, however, obliged from circumſtances to act in concert with his colleagues.

Wilkes and Oliver were the two moſt ſtrenuous aſſertors of public liberty in the whole corporation of London. We have already given the character of the one: the other was a member of parliament, and equal to him in patriotiſm. Oliver was alſo a man of character, and had a noble and independent way of thinking.

Guided by theſe men, Croſby calls in the printer, hears his complaint, and orders the ſerjeant at arms to be carried to priſon.

This act of authority occaſioned a prodigious diſturbance; and Croſby, Oliver, and Wilkes were ſummoned to appear before the Houſe of Commons. The two firſt obey, and go in proceſſion from the city, attended by ſeveral hundred carriages belonging to people of the firſt rank. Wilkes alſo accompanies them to the door; but, as he would not be permitted to appear as one

of

of the members for Middlesex, he proceeds no further.

At their arrival, they are received with shouts of applause by a prodigious concourse of people, who surrounded the house, and mal-treated all those who were of the court party.

Lord North, who had been the most violent against the city magistrates, had procured two hundred of the guards to protect himself and his friends; but fearing that so small a number could not save him from an incensed populace, who threatened his destruction, he gets into a hackney coach, accompanied by a valet, and attempts to steal into the house in disguise.

This project, however, was unsuccessful; he is known, the horses are stopt, and he himself is dragged by the hair, and exposed to a thousand indignities.

The existence of this man, to whom England unfortunately gave birth, now hung suspended by a thread: but the destinies resolved that he should still live for the unhappiness of thousands of his equals. The soldiers having come to his assistance,

assistance, and two of his creatures having generously shielded him with their own bodies, he was at last snatched from a certain death.—Having thus escaped the fate of the unhappy De Witt, he repairs to parliament, disfigured and almost unknown. He begins with recounting his sad adventure, while his eyes stream with tears, in that hypocritical tone which had been so successful with Cromwell. He beseeches Heaven to bear witness to his innocence, and the uprightness of his intentions; which having no other end than the good of the nation, gave him a claim on the gratitude, rather than the curses, of his fellow-citizens.

In this state of anxiety and grief, trembling lest the horrible scene, from which he had just escaped, should be renewed, he proposes to the accused members to repair, by an immediate apology, the irregularity of their conduct; assuring them, that the house was disposed to accept a very slight one.

Oliver rejects this proposition with the utmost scorn; adding, that to expect an apology from those who had supported the rights of their fellow-citizens, was the grossest insult; and that he

he and his adherents ought rather to offer excuſes to the whole nation for their mal-adminiſtration. Croſby being of the ſame opinion, they were, by a plurality of voices, ſent to the Tower.

The Tower is not a horrible priſon, like the Baſtile; it rather reſembles a little town, abounding with tradeſmen and artizans of every kind. A prodigious number of people reſide there, and the apartments are very commodious. Croſby and Oliver, on their arrival, hired two little houſes; and the numerous viſits of their friends ſcarcely allowed them to perceive that they were priſoners.

While confined here, extraordinary honours were conferred on them; and it might be eſteemed by both as the moſt happy epocha in their lives. Every ward in the city ſent them deputations. Theſe went in form, accompanied by an immenſe crowd of carriages, and in the name of the people of England, thanked them for having courageouſly defended the rights of their fellow-citizens, and ſacrificed ſo generouſly their own liberty for the public welfare. Beſides this, ſeveral cities, counties, and aſſociations, returned them

them thanks; ſent them their freedom, and accompanied it with gifts. London in particular preſented them with two maſſy cups of gold, on which the arms of the city were engraved.

It is impoſſible to recollect without admiration the fervour and patriotic enthuſiaſm which prevailed every where during three weeks, at the end of which time the parliament was prorogued.

On this occaſion the magiſtrates of London, clothed in their robes, the ſheriffs of the county of Middleſex, the common-council, all the militia of the city, and an immenſe crowd of diſtinguiſhed perſons, repaired to the Tower, accompanied by drums, cymbals, and trumpets, to receive the two priſoners. Being placed in the ſtate-coach, they were conducted to the Manſion-houſe in triumph, amidſt the ringing of bells, the firing of cannon, and every other demonſtration of joy. The windows were crowded with beauties, who waved their handkerchiefs and added to the public triumph. The general enthuſiaſm cannot be well deſcribed: I myſelf ſaw many weep for joy, and realiſe the witty remark of lord Shafteſbury, who ſays, that enthuſiaſm

thuſiaſm is epidemic, and, like yawning, affects every body around.

Let the reader recollect, that all this was tranſacted, not in the corner of a diſtant province, but in the midſt of the reſidence of a powerful monarch; that the miniſters, whoſe authority is very great, were the enemies and the proſecutors of the two priſoners; and that this was not a tumult or a revolt, but a public act which the laws, far from prohibiting, ſeemed rather to authoriſe.

I ſhall never forget this memorable ſcene;—with me it ſhall always be ſacred. It is engraven in my mind in never-fading characters, and can only be effaced with my exiſtence.

CHAP-

CHAPTER III.

The Fertility of England—Its Climate, Productions, and Industry—Society of Arts—Duke of Bridgewater's Canal—Extraordinary Inventions—Wedgewood's Manufactures — Mrs. Abington — Beggars of Rank—Calais—Colonel Champigny—Societies of Rogues.

THE south of Great Britain is almost an entire flat, and contains but very few mountains. If the principality of Wales, and some of the northern counties, be excepted, all that immense island resembles a garden, adorned with fine views and romantic prospects, which do not yield in any thing to those parts of Italy which are so much extolled. The riches of the inhabitants; the neatness and cleanliness of their manner of living,

living, which is diſcoverable in the very cottages; the noble roads; and a fertile and well cultivated ſoil, form one *great whole*, which the moſt phlegmatic obſerver is forced to admire.

The greateſt objection that can be urged againſt England is the inſalubrity of the air, and the indiſpenſable cuſtom of burning coals.

It is true that the climate is ſubject to frequent changes, but it is generally ſupportable both in the ſummer and winter. It is not bad health, but a love of variety and diſſipation, that drives ſo many rich Engliſhmen to the ſouth of France, either to ſquander their guineas there, or to œconomiſe in a country where every thing is ſold at a low price, after they have hurt their fortunes at home. As the reaſon of theſe journeys is not very flattering to their pride, they diſguiſe it under the pretence of the badneſs of their native air.

As to the Engliſh who have ſpent part of their lives in the Indies, and who have been of courſe uſed to a warmer ſun, it is very evident that they muſt feel, in a very lively manner, the difference on their return, and that the air of Provence will be

be more genial to them than that of England.

It was this circumſtance which obliged the celebrated lord Clive to ſpend two years of his life at Montpelier; where he hoped a long time, but in vain, to diſſipate thoſe hypochondriac humours with which he was tormented. He carried them back to England, where they changed to a profound melancholy; which, after preying for ſome time on his body, at laſt became victorious, and conſtrained him, as it were, to deprive himſelf of exiſtence. Notwithſtanding the care of his family to conceal the manner of his death, all the world ſoon knew, that the vanquiſher and ſcourge of Aſia, hanged himſelf in his own bed-chamber.

What will fully evince, how little the climate and uſe of coal-fires are hurtful to the health of the Engliſh, is the great number of old men who may there be met with conſtantly. On reading the liſt of deaths, one readily perceives that this claſs of men is equal, if not more numerous in that than in any other country in Europe. How is it poſſible that we ſhould find ſo many aged people in London, where the conſumption of this kind of fuel is exceſſive, if it were hurtful? How

How comes it, that it does not affect the women, and that the complexion of the Engliſh is ſuperior to that of all the other Europeans?

The plague has ever been uncommon in England; and this is a high proof in favour of the goodneſs of the climate. To this may be added the healthy conſtitutions of the natives, their vigour, intrepidity, and perpetual exertions. All the carpenters, blackſmiths, farriers, miners, porters, and peaſants, are the moſt robuſt men in the world. Charles II. who had viſited a good part of Europe, was uſed to ſay: "Notwithſtanding all the complaints of the diſagreeableneſs and inconſtancy of the climate of my native country, it is nevertheleſs certain, that there is no part in Europe, where it is poſſible to be out of doors for ſo many days in the year, or ſo many hours in a day, as in England." They never experience inundations, ſo hurtful in other countries; tempeſts, earthquakes, and famine, are equally unknown to them!

The graſs in England is always of an unrivalled beauty, verdure, and extraordinary goodneſs. From hence proceeds the uncommon attachment of the Engliſh to thoſe fine lawns, which they ſmooth and keep even by means of

ſtone

ſtone rollers: they are ſometimes ſo very regular, that you may play at bowls on them with as much nicety as you could on a billiard table. This is a favourite diverſion, and is often enjoyed by people of the firſt rank.

Every part of the country abounds with parks, which are adorned with the moſt agreeable and romantic landſcapes. Almoſt at every ſtep you meet with alleys of fruit-trees, which conduct you to charming villages; the inhabitants of which are well fed and well clothed, and in a ſtate of plenty and abundance, ſufficient to prove that theirs is the native country of riches, liberty, and improvement.

Nevertheleſs there is not in the whole iſland, either a ſociety or an individual, whoſe buſineſs it is to animate this univerſal induſtry, or to bring agriculture, trade, or manufactures, to a greater degree of perfection. As no one is there limited in his rights, or diſturbed in the poſſeſſion of his property, all theſe advantages naturally accrue of themſelves. To the ſame cauſes the flouriſhing ſtate of Holland may be attributed. But however inſtructive the example of theſe two ſtates may ſeem to be, one is nevertheleſs authoriſed

thoriſed to believe, from the conduct of almoſt all the ſovereigns in Europe, that they have unanimouſly endeavoured to ſtifle that induſtry which in itſelf is ſo precious, and in its conſequences ſo neceſſary to the grandeur of a ſtate.

Some time ſince the miniſter, to augment the number of his dependents, formed the deſign of erecting a board to watch over the intereſts of trade. The project was carried into execution: but trade, ſo far from increaſing, declined the moment that theſe counſellors of commerce began to give her leſſons. Of this, authentic proofs were produced, and it was aboliſhed in 1782. Mr. Gibbon, the Engliſh Tacitus, was a member of this inſtitution.

The banks of the Thames, from Graveſend to London, are adorned with towns and villages; and the neighbourhood occupied by a prodigious number of builders, who are continually employed in the conſtruction of ſhips of all dimenſions, and of every kind. The river itſelf is covered with veſſels, which are moored in rows, for ſeveral miles.

The great induſtry that reigns every where, forms the moſt agreeable ſpectacle. Several thouſands

ſands live ſolely by their employments about the ſhipping. The coal-trade alone occupies an amazing number; the conſumption of this article is inconceivable. I have ſeen a fleet of fifty ſail arrive at once from Newcaſtle, and have been well aſſured that this is not at all extraordinary. The labourers who unload theſe colliers receive nine ſhillings per day. The coal-mines of Newcaſtle were not diſcovered till the fifteenth century; they are equally valuable as if they produced gold. The trade of this mineral, ſo neceſſary in Great Britain, is increaſing, and has even been doubled ſince the year 1700. It is eaſy to conceive a proper idea of the wealth of that town, formerly ſo little known, by obſerving that the revenues of the corporation amount to nine thouſand pounds a year.

An increaſe of buildings is viſible in all the great cities throughout England: in reſpect to London, it is greatly diſapproved, and not without reaſon. This, however, does not immediately proceed from itſelf, for the villages with which it is ſurrounded, and which augment daily, by their additional population, contribute greatly to its inhabitants.

The town of Stockton, which was but a hamlet a few years ſince, now ſends upwards of a hundred and fifty veſſels every year to the metropolis. In 1778, ſix hundred thouſand ſheep belonged to Dorcheſter alone.

Commerce increaſes daily in Hull, Briſtol, Plymouth, Liverpool, &c. it is the ſame with manufactures. Neither the revolution that has taken place in regard to trade, nor the loſs of the American colonies, has in the leaſt decreaſed them. The city of Exeter vended ſtuffs in the year 1779 to the amount of a million ſterling, a ſum which almoſt ſeems incredible.

Trade now flouriſhes in almoſt an equal proportion in Scotland. Edinburgh, Glaſgow, Aberdeen, and Elgin are full of excellent manufactures.

The Scots hitherto neglected the herring fiſhery; they left it entirely to the Dutch, who came annually to their coaſts, and enjoyed, undiſturbed, that lucrative branch of commerce: they themſelves now participate in its advantages. The town of Inverneſs alone employs five hundred veſſels and three thouſand fiſhermen. Eight hundred ſhallops and ſix thouſand fiſhermen are employed

ployed in the river Forth, which this fiſh frequents during two months of the year, and procure a ſufficient quantity to fill forty thouſand barrels: one ſixth part is conſumed in the country; the reſt is exported. This exportation produces annually twenty thouſand pounds ſterling. Several of the neighbouring towns alſo partake in the fiſhery; Glaſgow itſelf ſhips three thouſand barrels every year for the foreign market.

It is the ſame in regard to the ſalmon. Aberdeen ſends a hundred quintals annually to London, and Yarmouth ninety.

Many naturaliſts are of opinion that in Hampſhire, where the air is pure and the climate warm, the vine and fig-tree might be cultivated to great advantage.

A letter is preſerved in the Philoſophical Tranſactions of the Royal Society, from Henry Barham to Sir Hans Sloane, written in the year 1719, in which he aſſerts that he had produced ſilk at Chelſea, which thoſe who were converſant on the ſubject, had declared to be equal to that of Piedemont.

It is well known that there were many vine-

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yards formerly in England. That old and celebrated record, called Doomſday-book, expreſsly ſays, that, before the Norman conqueſt, wine was made in the county of Eſſex.

It is but a few years ſince this intereſting production was diſcovered. It begins with the time of William the Conqueror, and contains a circumſtantial detail of the inventory which that monarch cauſed to be taken of all the produce of the kingdom; and a liſt of all the manors, fiefs, rents, &c. This book is very difficult to decypher, being a mixture of French and bad German, written for the moſt part in Gothic characters. In conſequence of this there are but very few, even of the learned, who can read the manuſcript. The Engliſh, for a long time, looked upon it as merely an hieroglyphic, of which they could only interpret ſome paſſages, till, on the arrival of Raſpe in England, it happened to fall into his hands.

That illuſtrious and intelligent man, who had been for many years employed in the German libraries, was very capable of cutting this Gordian knot: of this he gave ſufficient proofs. The government was eager to know its contents; but as many of the firſt families in the kingdom imagined

imagined themſelves in ſome ſhape intereſted in the tranſlation, they did not think it prudent to entruſt it to a foreigner. A learned Engliſhman was therefore preferred to Rapſe, on whoſe aſſiſtance he greatly depended, on accepting this important and difficult commiſſion: unhappily, however, they quarrelled, and Doomſday-book was not tranſlated.

The induſtry of the Engliſh has often received a new degree of energy from the aſſiſtance of my countrymen the Germans. One of them called Spielman conſtructed, in the reign of Elizabeth, the firſt paper-mill. Gottfried Box, another, in 1590, erected the firſt machine for the manufacturing of braſs-wire, and afterwards another for copper-plates. Under the reign of the ſame queen a third built the firſt powder-mill. At this very day the beſt book-binder in London, and an artiſt ſo famous in his trade, that his equal has never yet been found, is alſo a German.

My country was very near ſnatching from the Engliſh the honour of producing the beſt clock-maker, an art in which they ſo much excel, and of gaining the premium which the parliament had aſſigned to the time-piece which

would beſt diſcover the longitude at ſea. The ſum allotted for this uſeful diſcovery was twenty thouſand pounds. A great number of the firſt artiſts in Europe, animated by the allurements of glory and of gain, became candidates for this reward; but an Engliſhman, of the name of Harriſon, carried away both. It is, however, probable that a watch-maker of the name of Thiele de Breine would have ſupplanted him, if this excellent artiſan had carried his watch to London before the payment of the reward: for, in the opinion of the Engliſh themſelves, his mechaniſm was more ingeniouſly conſtructed, and much more likely than Harriſon's to obtain the end propoſed.

It is incredible how much, and by how many different means, induſtry is excited in England.

Without reckoning the uſual ſums which parliament votes annually in bounties, new objects are continually craving their patronage. Several patriotic ſocieties, which labour with a zeal for the general good, worthy of admiration, follow their example.

The moſt numerous one that has ever exiſted in

in Europe, is the ſociety for the encouragement of arts, manufactures, &c. It was founded in 1753, by William Shipley, and conſiſted, in 1784, of ſix thouſand ſeven hundred members. The firſt noblemen in the nation belong to this inſtitution. Every member pays two guineas a year, and this ſubſcription forms a ſum ſufficient for the diſtribution of a great many premiums, and thoſe of a conſiderable value.

Theſe rewards are always deſtined to perſons who by original inventions have become ſerviceable to mankind, or by an improvement of former diſcoveries, have carried them to a higher degree of perfection.

Their meetings rarely conſiſt of more than two hundred perſons; the reſt very ſeldom attend, and content themſelves with contributing, by their pecuniary aſſiſtance, to the noble deſign of this uſeful eſtabliſhment. It is not to be doubted that this is the ſole motive, as no kind of honour nor any mark of diſtinction is attached to the members. The principal intention is to improve agriculture, and the arts, by keeping up a conſtant correſpondence with perſons of every rank and ſtation, who project ſchemes likely to be attended with good conſequences, or communi-

cate experiments already made, whether unſucceſsful or proſperous. Lord Romney has been for many years the preſident.

Another ſociety has been formed in Brecknockſhire, a county ſituated in the principality of Wales. The object of this inſtitution is agriculture in all its branches, the eſtabliſhment of manufactures of linen cloth, and the improvement of woollens. They alſo attend to the reparation of the great roads, and the conſtruction of new ones: in one word, their plan is to give to induſtry a greater degree of activity and extenſion.

It is to one man that England is indebted for her inland navigation. Till 1759 the project was not carried into execution; and all the rivers and ſtreams in the iſland were ſoon after covered with boats. This benefactor to his country was the duke of Bridgwater, who has immortalized himſelf by the conſtruction of a canal, which would not diſgrace a monarch. He was only twenty-one years of age, when he conceived this deſign, worthy of ancient Rome.

His artificial river unites the city of Liverpool with the populous town of Mancheſter. It is ſometimes carried acroſs immenſe rocks hollowed

lowed at top. Sometimes it ſuddenly vaniſhes, and makes a thouſand turnings in a ſubterraneous paſſage eight Engliſh miles in length. After appearing all at once it ſeems ſuſpended in the air, and croſſes the Wevil by means of immenſe arches, in ſuch a manner that one may often enjoy the pictureſque ſight of one veſſel navigating in the ſtream below, and of another which croſſes it, and ſeems to ſail in the element above.

An Engliſhman of the name of Wedgewood has built a whole village in Staffordſhire, which he has called Etruria, a name well merited by its ſuperb works in the Etruſcan ſtyle, which have become remarkable on account of the elegant forms into which the various manufactures are ſhaped. This perſon has realiſed an original idea, and acquired great wealth and celebrity. He has choſen for his models every thing that Italy and Greece has left moſt perfect in its kind, and which we ſtill admire in Florence, Rome and Naples. He poſſeſſes exact drawings of all the ancient ſculptures which have been preſerved from Gothic barbarity and the waſte of time, and copies them with great exactneſs in his productions.

Of his vaſes, &c. ſome are gilded, others are enamelled. He employs a great number of workmen, and has acquired a conſiderable fortune.

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It was in the year 1771 that Cox engaged in an extraordinary enterpriſe. He knew that the princes of Aſia held our mechanical inventions in the higheſt eſtimation; he was aware, however, that nothing which was not adorned with gold, ſilver, and precious ſtones, had any attraction for them. Every thing of this kind which they have to ornament their palaces, are clumſy and very badly executed. His project, therefore, was to join the magic of art to the impoſing appearance of riches. A conſiderable fortune added to a genius at once ſubtle and inventive, furniſhed him with the means.

The moſt ſkilful artiſts in England and France, ſuch as jewellers, clock-makers, goldſmiths, &c. were employed, and paid to exert their utmoſt ſkill.

Every thing that they undertook was performed with uncommon care and ingenuity, and he ſoon beheld himſelf poſſeſſed of a number of mechanical

chanical inventions unrivalled in point of excellence.

Cox was reſolved to ſend this collection to Aſia; he, however, kept it nine years in London, and ſhewed the whole by means of tickets, at half a guinea each. I myſelf have frequently ſeen it, and always with freſh admiration. Never was taſte and grandeur, all the ſkill of mechanicks, and the magic of opticks, united in ſuch a high degree of pefection. The eye met with nothing but gold, diamonds, and precious ſtones, which were ſhaped into the forms of a variety of animals, aſſumed their geſtures, and ſeemed to be alive; birds of different kinds and of exquiſite plumage ſung the moſt raviſhing notes; the ſwan of Europe ſwam in artificial rivers; the hare and partridges ran about in groves, planted by the hands of the moſt cunning workmen; while camels, elephants, and other productions of Aſia, ſtalked around, and imitated nature with a ſcrupulous exactitude.

But the moſt romantic object in all this aſtoniſhing aſſemblage, was a caſtle ſix feet in height: it ſeemed to realiſe all the ideas which the imagination of the warmeſt poets could conceive of a palace in fairy land.

This ſuperb collection, in which the precious metals ſeemed to conſtitute the leaſt valuable parts, coſt more than a hundred thouſand pounds. The preſent emperor of China received a ſimilar one from Cox in 1759: it is placed by the ſide of his throne in the grand audience chamber at Pekin. That of which I ſpeak was deſtined for the Great Mogul, but the enormous debts which the ingenious artiſt was obliged to contract, and of which the intereſt alone amounted to a great ſum, unfortunately prevented him from completing his deſign. A part only was ſent to the Eaſt, the reſt was diſpoſed of in London by means of a lottery. Thus the hope of forming a new branch of trade with Aſia was defeated perhaps for ever. From this, not only England, but other countries might have drawn the greateſt advantages.

Doctor Graham, a Scotchman by birth, in the year 1780, by means of his celeſtial bed, which coſt him ſeveral thouſand pounds, gave at once a proof of the *wealth* and the *cullibility* of the Engliſh. He called his houſe the *Temple* of *Health*, and acted as the high prieſt of that puiſſant goddeſs; in this capacity he affirmed that he joined the uſeful to the agreeable, and all the wonders of art to the precious ſecrets of his profeſſion. Nothing, indeed, could be more ſuperb than this temple;

temple; the electric fluid managed with uncommon ſkill, was darted around in beautiful irradiation; tranſparent glaſs of various colours choſen and placed with taſte; valuable vaſes filled with the moſt exquiſite aromatics, which awakened and ſoftened the paſſions, and inſpired the ſoul with a ſoft languor, were the firſt objects that preſented themſelves to the obſervation of the curious.

This modern Æſculapius had undoubtedly founded his ſcheme on a perfect knowledge of the human heart; and the ſucceſs that crowned his ſtrange enterpriſe proved that he was not wrong in his calculation. Indeed it could not fail to ſucceed, for I really think that the ſenſual pleaſures are carried as far, not to ſay farther, in London than in Paris.

Graham put an end to this farce about two years after it commenced, by ſelling his grand electrical apparatus, his inſtruments of muſic, and, finally, his celeſtial bed.

Mrs. Abington, the celebrated actreſs, is engaged in a very ſingular occupation. As ſhe poſſeſſes an exquiſite taſte, ſhe is conſtantly employed in driving about the capital to give her advice concerning the modes and faſhions of the day.

day. She is called in like a phyſician, and recompenſed as if ſhe were an artiſt. There never is a marriage or ball in which ſhe is not conſulted. A great number of people of faſhion treat her in the moſt familiar manner, and as if ſhe were their equal. As ſhe never appears on the ſtage but in the moſt elegant dreſs, her taſte is ſure to be copied by all the ladies who happen to be ſpectators. It is there that this prieſteſs of the faſhions diſplays all her art, being certain that ſhe will be immediately copied with the moſt trivial exactneſs.

In the ſame manner that the philoſophical diſciples of antiquity impoſed ſilence on the inconſiderate ſcholars, by obſerving, *our maſter has ſaid thus*; ſo it is ſufficient for the beauties of London to obſerve *Mrs. Abington has worn ſuch a thing*, to ſhut the mouths of their fathers and their huſbands. In her contract with the manager of Drury-Lane in the year 1781, it was agreed that the ſum of five hundred pounds ſterling ſhould be annually allowed for her wardrobe; beſides this, ſhe received eighteen guineas every night that ſhe acted, and a benefit at the end of the ſeaſon.

In a city ſuch as London, where ſo many weak people who happen to be affluent reſide, it is not at all ſurpriſing that artful impoſtors ſhould by means of tricks and ſtratagems endeavour to avail themſelves of the wealth of theſe fools.

Every thing is thought fair as long as they do not tranſgreſs the laws; thus a number of quacks of every kind exerciſe their various profeſſions in peace and ſecurity.

About twelve months ſince, a perſon appeared in London who pretended to poſſeſs the ſecret of cutting the finger and toe nails in a manner ſo as to render the hands and feet much more elegant and beautiful *.

Having thus appealed to female vanity, the Engliſh ladies were enraptured with the faſcinating idea of becoming more lovely, and this fellow being continually employed, was enabled to reſide in an elegant houſe, and keep a fine carriage. He lived in this manner for two whole years, got a great deal of money and at the end of that time ſuddenly diſappeared, leaving

* This man advertiſed as a chiropediſt.

debts behind him to the amount of three thouſand pounds.

Another trade practiſed in London is that of begging. It is indeed very uncommon to ſee an Engliſhman who is not one of the very loweſt of the people aſking for charity, although foreigners of good birth, and who appear to have received a certain degree of education, exerciſe that ſhameful profeſſion among them, and ſubſiſt without much trouble. Theſe do not ſtop people in the ſtreets, where they would receive nothing but trifles, or at moſt a little ſilver. Being well dreſſed they get admittance into houſes of people of diſtinction, ſhew proofs and documents, which for the moſt part are forged, and receive gold from the inhabitants, who are generally credulous and beneficent.

I knew an Italian, formerly a dancer in the theatre at St. Peterſburgh, who, although he could neither read nor write, after he had procured another rogue to draw up a patent for him, gave himſelf out as a Ruſſian colonel. Provided with this falſe diploma, he entered with inconceivable impudence into the firſt houſes in London, would not be ſtopped by any ſervant, penetrated into the inner apartments, at laſt got ſight

ſight of the maſter, and never quitted him without receiving a preſent.

It was in vain that the Ruſſian miniſter diſcovered the roguery of this fellow; he could only inform a very ſmall number of perſons: the Italian ſtill found out new benefactors, whom he impoſed upon by means of his patent, and while he preſerved it with care, it would have been very difficult to have puniſhed him. After having practiſed ſimilar arts for three years, he left England with a conſiderable ſum of money, and is at this preſent moment a merchant in Dunkirk.

A Frenchman had a ſtill better plan. He pretended to be the ſon of the unfortunate Calas, who, as is well known, lives in France, and is a phyſician. The general compaſſion for this unfortunate family opened every door in London to him: he received conſiderable preſents, and departed with great wealth.

This trade, ſo ſingularly lucrative in that country, had ſo many attractions for a M. de Champigny, formerly a colonel in the ſervice of France, and who arrived in London ſoon after the German war, that he reduced it to a ſyſtem, and

and followed the profeſſion for ten years with the moſt uncommon ſucceſs. He never went on foot, but (is it to be believed?) in a brilliant equipage that belonged to him, and very often gave the moſt elegant entertainments. As he poſſeſſed a knowledge of the world, he knew how to exerciſe his ſkill with ſo much ſucceſs, that even thoſe perſons who paſſed for miſers, opened their purſes to him without any difficulty. To the few who heſitated to make him thoſe preſents which he requeſted, he preſented a liſt of ſubſcribers to a new hiſtory of England, which he was about to write, and of which he actually printed one or two volumes.

The generous and compaſſionate character of the Engliſh, joined to the diſguſt ſo natural in man to induſtry, occaſions all the ſtreets of London to be crowded with beggars. Theſe lazy wretches receive three, four, and ſometimes five ſhillings a day in charity. They actually have their clubs in the pariſh of St. Giles's, where they meet to carouſe, read the gazettes, and talk about politics. No one dares to attend thoſe aſſemblies unleſs he is a beggar himſelf, or introduced by one. A friend of mine who wiſhed to ſee and converſe with all deſcriptions of men, having one day put on a ragged coat, promiſed to reward a mendicant

dicant if he would conduct him thither. He was accordingly introduced, found a great deal of gaiety and eaſe, and nothing that bore the appearance of indigence, ſave the tatters that covered the members. One caſt his crutches into a corner of the room; one unbuckled his wooden leg; another took off the plaiſter which concealed his eye: all, in fine, diſcovered themſelves in their own natural forms; recounted the adventures of that day, and concerted the ſtratagems to be put in execution on the morrow.

The female beggars generally hire infants from thoſe who are poorer than themſelves, to rouſe, by that means, the charity of the paſſengers. They pay various prices for theſe children, from ſixpence to two ſhillings a day, according as they are more or leſs deformed. A child that is very crooked and diſtorted generally earns three ſhillings, and ſometimes even more. I happened once to overhear the converſation of two women who were talking concerning their profeſſion. One of them informed the other that ſhe paid two ſhillings a day for the child in her arms: "What!" replies her companion, "are "you a fool? Two ſhillings for that charming "baby!—I would not give more for a mon-"ſter."

In

In the ſame pariſh the pick-pockets hold their meetings, and have an ordinary which they frequent, where they ſell or exchange the handkerchiefs, ſnuff-boxes, and other articles which they have filched in the courſe of the day. In any other country theſe aſſociations would be diſcovered, and the whole gang made priſoners: this is not, however, poſſible in London; for as theſe rogues never act in a body, but each by himſelf, it is neceſſary that there ſhould be proofs againſt every individual, for the laws are ſcrupulouſly obſerved in arreſting the moſt deſpicable wretch in the community. When any one of them is ſuſpected, his perſon muſt be ſworn to; and his companions, although well known, never run any riſk whatever.

This claſs of rogues, however, do not now aſſemble ſo publicly as formerly. About thirty years ſince a houſe in St. Giles's became very celebrated as the rendezvous of this kind of thieves; at preſent it is occupied by an honeſt brewer. The knives and forks were chained to the table, and the cloth nailed to it. Not far from that place was alſo a ſhop famous for gin; over the door of which was the following inſcription: *Here you may get drunk for a penny, dead drunk*

drunk for two-pence, and have ſtraw for nothing.

This ſingular liquor was ſold in the cellar, which was crowded day and night with a ſpecies of beings who rather reſemble beaſts than men. A ſtatute, however, called the *Gin-act*, by impoſing a high duty on that liquid poiſon, put an end to ſuch horrid diſſoluteneſs. It is neceſſary I ſhould remark here, that the deſcription I have juſt given does not exhibit a picture of the capital during the preſent times, and that I have only ſpoken of an obſcure ſtreet which has been diſtinguiſhed for ages, by the poverty and the groſs and ſavage character of the wretches who reſide in it.

London ſtill contains thoſe pretended fortune-tellers, who, for the moderate ſum of one ſhilling, augur a happy deſtiny to the curious. Their lodgings are uſually adorned with magical characters, and furniſhed with celeſtial and terreſtrial globes. Their dreſs is a green robe, a fur night-cap, and a long beard tied under the chin. Theſe for the moſt part are young men, but, by means of this dreſs, they aſſume the appearance of old age, and pretend to be arrived from the Eaſt. That they may not be ſuppoſed

to

to know a word of Engliſh, they make uſe of an interpreter, to give an air of truth to their impoſture, who explains the meaning of the oracle to the dupes, and ſhares the ſpoils with his maſter. Theſe fortune-tellers are always Engliſh or Iriſh, for as yet no foreigner has dared to make ſuch an attempt.

This kind of impoſition is ſeverely puniſhed, but neither ſo often nor ſo ſeverely as to aboliſh it entirely. As the public peace is not endangered by the practice; as no bad conſequences follow their ridiculous predictions; as fortune-tellers at bottom are only a kind of beggars; and as fools in all countries are determined to be deceived: from thence it proceeds that they do not proſecute theſe people with any degree of rigour, unleſs they become too public and make a prodigious noiſe.

Sometimes they carry their impudence to ſuch a length, that they advertiſe in the newſpapers, and inform the world of their abilities, their price, and their abode. If a magiſtrate ſhould go to the place appointed, they deny the whole, and affirm that ſome wag has done it to amuſe himſelf at their expence. On theſe occaſions they eaſily manage ſo as to hide their robe, cap, globes,

and

and in a word every indication of their profeſſion; ſo that not finding any proofs ſufficient to convict them, the officers of juſtice are obliged to retire, and the fortune-teller continues his trade in peace.

CHAP-

CHAPTER IV.

Extent of London—Contraſt betwixt the City and the Weſt End of the Town—Peculiarities in the Houſes and Public Buildings—The Pavement—Aſſurance of Houſes—Is London well lighted?—St. Paul's — Weſtminſter Abbey — Anecdote of Charles I.—Adelphi—Manſion Houſe—Bridges—The Bank—City Magiſtrates—Patriotiſm of Mr. Beckford.

THIRTY years ago it was difficult to aſcertain whether London or Paris was the larger city. Since, however, they have preſcribed certain bounds to the latter, which they are not allowed to exceed, and this wiſe regulation has not yet been adopted in the metropolis of England, which every day receives a new

increaſe of buildings; it cannot now be doubted that the Engliſh have the misfortune to poſſeſs a capital infinitely more extenſive than the French. That which adds not a little to its magnitude, is the great number of large villages, which ſerve as country houſes; and which being incorporated as it were with the ſuburbs of the town, form with it a monſtrous aggregate, to which there are neither limits nor regulations. No leſs than forty-three thouſand new houſes were built, between 1762 and 1779.

Some enlightened patriots have attempted to ſtop this evil, which is continually increaſing. "It is madneſs," ſay they, "thus to *roof* all the "county of Middleſex with tiles." The ſagacious North thought proper to impoſe a duty on bricks; but far from attaining the end propoſed, the *rage* for building ſeemed only to increaſe. The projectors were not in the leaſt frightened with this tax: being certain of always finding inhabitants, they only became anxious to make their houſes more agreeable and commodious than formerly.

For theſe twenty years paſt, an actual emigration has taken place from the eaſtern parts of London towards the weſtern; thouſands have

left the former, where they do not erect new buildings, for the latter, where the moſt fertile fields and moſt agreeable gardens are daily metamorphoſed into houſes and ſtreets.

The city, eſpecially the houſes along the banks of the Thames, is compoſed of old ruins: the ſtreets are narrow, obſcure, and badly paved: it is the reſidence of the ſeamen, of the workmen employed in ſhip-building, and of a great part of the Jews who reſide in London. The contraſt betwixt that and the weſtern parts of the metropolis is aſtoniſhing: the houſes there are almoſt all new, and of an excellent conſtruction; the ſquares are magnificent; the ſtreets are built in ſtraight lines, and perfectly well lighted: no city in Europe is better paved. If London were equally well built, no place in the whole world would be comparable to it.

It is a ſingular circumſtance, and one that no traveller has ever remarked, that the weſtern diviſion of London, which is in extent more than half the capital, and which is entirely ſeparated from the city, has not as yet received any name. When the citizens ſpeak of any particular part of it, they content themſelves with mentioning the

the name of the ſtreet; and when they talk of the whole, they term it *the other end of the town.* Foreigners and geographers do wrong in calling this prodigious aſſemblage of ſtreets and ſquares Weſtminſter: that diſtrict does not form a tenth of it; all the reſt is included in that of Middleſex.

As every thing in that country is ſingular, it is not in the leaſt ſurpriſing that the capital ſhould be placed in different counties, and that each particular portion of it has a diſtinct juriſdiction.

The city, which is the ſmalleſt diviſion of London, has its own magiſtrates; all the reſt is governed by juſtices of the peace, which gives occaſion to a remarkable difference in the *police.* In the former it is more ſevere and exact; the love of order and induſtry is alſo more perceptible.

Two towns a hundred leagues diſtant from each other, cannot have leſs reſemblance than there is between the city and the other parts of London: the form of government; the regulations; the privileges; the taſte and arrangement of the houſes; the manner of living; every thing,

his majeſty on ſome great event, that the courtiers attempt to ridicule them. One may eaſily imagine that a ſimple tradeſman, totally unacquainted with the modes and cuſtoms of a court, will not be able to acquit himſelf on ſuch ſolemn occaſions with the eaſe of a courtier who has made *etiquette* his chief and his only ſtudy, and who looks upon it as the moſt intereſting and the moſt uſeful of all accompliſhments.

This antipathy is ſo notorious, that it is mentioned in ballads, noticed on the ſtage, and is not forgotten even in the parliament itſelf. In Italy they would arm themſelves with poignards, and ſpill each others' blood on a ſimilar occaſion; —but ſo far from being attended with fatal conſequences in England, it ſerves only to baniſh the *ſpleen* of the nation.

The Engliſh nobility generally live three quarters of the year in the country. This ancient cuſtom of ſtaying but a ſhort time in the capital, is the reaſon why there are ſo few magnificent manſions in London. It is obſerved, however, that the metropolis having lately acquired more attractions, people of diſtinction now reſide there longer than they were wont to do:

do: however, they ſtill look on their country ſeats as their principal habitations.

Many families who have twenty thouſand a year, have but a few apartments in town, and, as they keep a prodigious train of ſervants, are of courſe confined in regard to room. In a ſhort time this inconvenience will no longer exiſt, as a number of people of faſhion are now building ſuperb palaces.

It may be thought that this cuſtom is encouraged by government; but although the chief deſign of all courts be, to draw around them the greater part of the nobility to add to their ſplendour, and take away from them the power of raiſing diſturbances in the provinces; I am, however, of opinion, that nothing but the pleaſures of the metropolis influence the Engliſh.

The nation already begins to be leſs attached to hunting, and to feel a greater paſſion for the fine arts, and every thing that can add to the pleaſures of a ſenſual life. It is alſo certain, that the next generation of the nobility will reſide, like thoſe of France, entirely in the capital. When one conſiders that, ſince this cuſtom has

prevailed, thoſe commotions which the great uſed formerly to foment, have altogether ſubſided; and that in England and Poland alone, where the nobility reſide on their eſtates, diſturbances of this kind have happened in the preſent age; it muſt be allowed that luxury, againſt which ſo much declamation prevails, has been attended with at leaſt ſome good conſequences.

This new inclination, by which the wealthy are induced to live in London, has given to projectors the idea of building large ſtreets, and extenſive ſquares, adorned with excellent houſes. Theſe houſes, which may be regarded as ſo many palaces, are very lofty, exceedingly commodious, and have each of them two ſtories under ground, to which ſufficient light is communicated by means of a fore-court. The ſervants are lodged, and the kitchen, ſtore-rooms, &c. are placed there, ſo that the reſt of the houſe is entirely at the diſpoſal of the maſter.

The builders have generally a leaſe of ninety-nine years, and at the end of that term are obliged either to give up the premiſes, or renew the agreement on paying a fine. The duke of Portland has eight thouſand buildings erected in this

this manner on his eſtate in the neighbourhood of town.

It is to this cuſtom that the want of ſolidity in the houſes, and the few maſter-pieces of architecture which we meet with in London, may be fairly attributed. If this reaſon did not exiſt, rich individuals would glory in decorating the capital of their native country. However, the diſadvantage is in a great meaſure recompenſed by the commodiouſneſs of the buildings.

Every houſe is abundantly ſupplied with water, by means of pipes, which diſtribute it to all the ſtreets in London. This profuſion is of the greateſt uſe in caſe of fire, by placing the engines ſo as to receive a conſtant ſupply. One need never be afraid of a ſcarcity of this precious commodity; for, not contented with making the Thames to run through all parts of the town, they have brought the New River from the county of Hertford for the ſame purpoſe. By means of engines at London-bridge they raiſe the river to a prodigious height, and then circulate it through wooden pipes.

They are careful in England not only to in-

ſure their houſes and their ſhops, but even public buildings, ſuch as churches, hoſpitals, and theatres. This precaution is not uſed in Paris, notwithſtanding its boaſted regulations are raiſed to the ſkies. Any one may alſo inſure his goods and wardrobe; nay, every thing but his ready money. This excellent eſtabliſhment is, however, ſometimes abuſed: more than one rogue has burnt his own houſe; and as this kind of crime is very difficult to be proved, the office is generally obliged to pay the amount of the demand. Immediately after the fire, the aſſurers become entitled to their money, having firſt tranſmitted the amount of their loſſes, and atteſted the ſtatement by an oath. Notwithſtanding the number of houſes annually conſumed in London by the flames, a mere trifle is given for the riſk: it is uſually no more than in the proportion of half a crown for a hundred pounds.

No part of Europe exhibits ſuch luxury and magnificence as the Engliſh diſplay within the walls of their dwelling-houſes. The ſtair-caſe, which is covered with the richeſt carpets, is ſupported by a baluſtrade of the fineſt Indian wood, curiouſly conſtructed, and lighted by lamps containing cryſtal vaſes. The landing-places

places are adorned with buſts, pictures and medallions; the wainſcot and cielings of the apartments are covered with the fineſt varniſh, and enriched with gold, bas-reliefs, and the moſt happy attempts in painting and ſculpture. The chimneys are of Italian marble, on which flowers and figures, cut in the moſt exquiſite ſtile, form the chief ornaments; the locks of the doors are of ſteel damaſked with gold. Carpets which often coſt three hundred pounds a-piece, and which one ſcruples to touch with his foot, cover all the rooms; the richeſt ſtuffs from the looms of Aſia are employed as window curtains; and the clocks and watches with which the apartments are furniſhed, aſtoniſh by their magnificence, and the ingenious complication of their mechaniſm.

The Engliſh have alſo introduced a new ſpecies of ſculpture; this conſiſts in medallions of ivory, of which the workmanſhip is equally delicate and elegant. Theſe are placed upon black velvet covered with glaſs, and contained in a frame of the richeſt workmanſhip.

The preſent faſhion of adorning the capital by the magnificence and the luxury of their manſions, every day increaſes among the great, and perhaps will at laſt deſtroy a cuſtom, of which

the lovers of painting and ſculpture have ſo long complained; that of embelliſhing their country-houſes with all the wonders of art, and which, thus entombed in the heart of a remote province, are for ever loſt to the world. Where is the artiſt who has time and money ſufficient to ſacrifice them in ſearching for a production which he may not perhaps find; or which, if he does meet with after a long and painful ſearch, he can only view in a tranſitory manner, without ſtudying its beauties at his eaſe?

Excluſive of St. Pauls' cathedral and the collegiate church of Weſtminſter, London contains one hundred and two pariſh-churches and ſixty-nine chapels of the eſtabliſhed religion; twenty-one belonging to the French proteſtants; eleven to the Germans, Dutch, and Swedes; thirty-three to the anabaptiſts and quakers; twenty-ſix to the independants: twenty-eight to the preſbyterians; nineteen to the catholics; and three to the Jews: the number conſecrated to the worſhip of the Divinity is three hundred and forty edifices. In this account I do not include twenty-one churches which do not belong to any particular pariſh. The foregoing liſt was aſcertained in 1779: I make this remark, becauſe the anabaptiſts, quakers, &c. &c. augment, diminiſh,

niſh, and often change the houſes where they aſſemble.

No city is adorned with ſuch fine ſquares as London. They are all compoſed of noble and handſome houſes: there are neither ſhops nor warehouſes to be ſeen in them: in the centre there is uſually a piece of ground laid out in a beautiful manner, which ſerves as an agreeable walk. Some are adorned with ſtatues and obeliſks. Markets, ſo common in other capitals, never diſgrace them with their diſguſtful appearance. The ſquares in London offer ſuch objects to the eye as announce the opulence and good taſte of the inhabitants: thoſe who reſide there, beſides this, have the advantage of breathing a pure air, and are never diſturbed by any noiſe.

The markets in the metropolis, which are very numerous, have certain fixed ſtations, where neither the buyers nor ſellers need fear being run over by the wheels of carriages, or trampled upon by the hoofs of horſes, being, by means of their ſituation, ſecured from ſuch inconveniences. This regulation, which is the conſequence of an excellent *police*, ought to be adopted in every great town.

Among

Among the peculiarities of London may be reckoned the pavement and the lamps. About twenty years ſince, that metropolis was the worſt paved city in Europe; the evil was indeed felt, but the inhabitants did not then know how to remedy it. From almoſt every houſe an enormous *ſign* was ſuſpended, which darkened the ſtreets, often fell down, and ſometimes killed the paſſengers. Two acts of parliament appeared almoſt at the ſame time, and obviated theſe diſadvantages; the ſigns diſappeared, and the ſtreets of London were covered with a pavement unrivalled in its kind, and which coſt four hundred thouſand pounds ſterling.

By means of large foot ways of hewn ſtone, the paſſengers, without being incommoded by the horſes and carriages, paſs freely along. No coachman, under the penalty of twenty ſhillings, dares to drive upon this, or touch the *kirb ſtone*, even if he is obliged to wait whole hours. Conſiderable ſums are appropriated towards the repairing of theſe excellent foot-ways; a regulation at once ſingular and wiſe prevents the pavement from being hurt, as all the carts, waggons, &c. are now obliged to make uſe of wheels with rims ſix inches in diameter. Theſe, ſo far from hurting the ſtreets, make them the more firm, and in a certain

certain degree repair the damages which the chariots, coaches, and other light carriages have occaſioned.

As the Engliſh are prodigal of their money and their time in favour of every public eſtabliſhment, one may naturally expect to find that London is well lighted. Nothing, indeed, can be more ſuperb. The lamps, which often conſiſt of two, three, and ſometimes four branches, are encloſed in cryſtal globes, and, being attached to iron ſupporters, are placed at a ſmall diſtance from each other. They are lighted at ſun-ſet, both in winter and ſummer, as well when the moon ſhines as not. In Oxford-ſtreet alone, there are more lamps than in all Paris.

The great roads within ſeven or eight miles of town are alſo illuminated in the ſame manner; and as they are very numerous, the effect is charming, more eſpecially in the county of Surry, where they frequently croſs each other obliquely, and at right angles. The highways are for the moſt part bordered with paliſades and country houſes; little wooden boxes provided with bells, and containing watchmen armed with muſquets, are alſo poſted at every hundred paces.

As

As all the ſhops are open till ten o'clock at night, and exceedingly well lighted; this, together with the lamps in the ſtreets, has a moſt aſtoniſhing effect. The Prince of Monaco, after the demiſe of the late duke of York, who died in his territories, went to England on an invitation from the king. It being rather late when he arrived, his highneſs imagined that this brilliant illumination was made in honour to him, for he thought it impoſſible that the inhabitants could always ſupport ſuch an immenſe expence. The prince's miſtake was ſoon divulged, and occaſioned many pleaſantries.

From what has been ſaid above, it may be eaſily imagined that London contains many fine houſes, and very few *palaces*. But notwithſtanding it is not cuſtomary among the Engliſh to give this appellation to Burlington, Northumberland, and Somerſet Houſes, the latter of which is a ſuperb edifice, and has been lately erected at the expence of the nation; it is, however, certain, that all theſe buildings are on every account worthy of being ſtiled ſo. This cuſtom perhaps ariſes from that *ſpirit of equality*, which conſtitutes the chief pride of the nation. It is only the reſidence of ſovereigns that they dignify with the name of a palace; every other edifice,

edifice, however large and however ſuperb, whether it belongs to the king's brother, or even to the prince of Wales, is ſimply called a houſe.

The moſt noble works in architecture contained in London, are the churches, the bridges, the hoſpitals, and ſome other public edifices.

The cathedral of St. Paul's is not unworthy of the nation. Notwithſtanding all its faults, it would be much more admired if the ſite, concealing its proper point of view from the ſpectator, did not at the ſame time hide all its beauties. It is generally known that it was built after the model of St. Peter's at Rome, and yet it only reſembles it in its ſhape and dome. The front towards Ludgate-hill is more ſuperb, and has an effect infinitely more intereſting than St. Peter's: it wants, however, the admirable ſituation, the colonade, the *jet d'eau*, and the obeliſk of the latter.

There are a great number of engravings of the deſign after which Sir Chriſtopher Wren, the architect, intended to have executed this building. His plan was in the pureſt Grecian ſtyle; and if his advice had been followed, London might now boaſt the glory of poſſeſſing the maſter-piece of

of modern architecture. The conſent of the chapter of St. Paul's being unfortunately neceſſary on this occaſion, they rejected the idea, obſerving at the ſame time, "That ſuch an edifice "would rather reſemble a Pagan temple than a "Chriſtian church."

There is no other example of a ſingle architect having begun and executed a building of ſuch an aſtoniſhing immenſity. It was the labour of thirty-ſeven years, and coſt a million two hundred thouſand pounds ſterling.

Divine ſervice is celebrated in only a ſmall part of it; all the reſt is empty, and without any ornament, which has a very diſagreeable effect. It is at laſt perceived how much this ſuperb edifice ſuffers by its ſad and doleful vacuity; for which reaſon they have for ſome time paſt formed the deſign of furniſhing it with monuments to the memory of illuſtrious Engliſhmen. In conſequence of this project, the king was petitioned by the common council of London, in the year 1778, to permit the monument to be placed there, which the parliament had voted to the memory of lord Chatham. The miniſter, who wiſhed as much as poſſible to detract from the reputation of that great ſtateſman, did not chooſe

to

to acquieſce in the demad; the funeral trophies were therefore baniſhed into one of the moſt obſcure corners of Weſtminſter abbey, where the effect is entirely loſt. The ſculpture has alſo been confided to an artiſt who is but little known. If the miniſter had acceded to the propoſition of the citizens, St. Paul's would have been inſenſibly filled with the nobleſt memorials of national glory.

The church or abbey of Weſtminſter is, perhaps, the moſt beautiful ſpecimen of Gothic architecture now in exiſtence. The grandeur of its columns, the boldneſs of its arches, its immenſe extent, its ornaments and their diſtribution, taken altogether, make this a moſt extraordinary edifice. It was formerly a convent of Benedictines; Cromwell converted it into a ſtable for his cavalry. In no part of the world is ſuch a multitude of ſuperb monuments to be met with; for, notwithſtanding the prodigious ſpace within the walls, in a few years there will not be room for any more.

This is the burial-place of the kings of England, and of many celebrated men, to whom either their friends or the nation at large have erected memorials. If any place is capable of inſpiring holy

holy awe and religious terror, it is this. This ſpot is alſo ſacred to men of letters and the moſt famous poets; here the man of genius, elevated and inflamed at the ſight, beholds the moſt celebrated names of which the world can boaſt. It is here too that the monuments of the ſtateſman, the general, the admiral, the philoſopher, the poet, the man of learning, and the artiſt, touch one another.

The tomb of Newton is finely executed, and placed in an excellent ſituation; on the baſe you read the following ſentence: "Mortals, rejoice "that you once poſſeſſed this ornament of hu- "man nature!" The inſcription, which is in the Latin language, was preferred to the Engliſh epitaph written by Pope, which, although exaggerated, is noble and poetical.

Nature, and Nature's laws, lay hid in night;
God ſaid—Let Newton be! and all was light.

There are alſo many foreigners of diſtinguiſhed merit buried here. The tombs of St. Evremond and Handel are truly admirable; that of Handel in particular is reckoned by the connoiſſeurs to be the moſt beautiful and ingenious one in the whole

whole abbey. The Engliſh never eſteemed any ſtranger ſo much as him; it is not therefore aſtoniſhing that they ſhould raiſe ſuch a magnificent tribute to his memory. The idea is ſublime: Handel, awakened by a trumpet blown by an angel, ſtarts from his tomb: a ſentiment of religious terror is not what agitates his ſoul at that moment: the ſounds of the trumpet fix all his attention; his arms, which he elevates, his ear, with which he liſtens, every feature in his countenance ſeems to indicate, that, entranced in this celeſtial harmony, his ſoul is unable to attend to any thing elſe.

The inſcription beneath the buſt of Shakeſpeare, is taken from a fine paſſage in one of his dramatic pieces called The Tempeſt.

The cloud-capt towers, the gorgeous palaces,
The ſolemn temples, the great globe itſelf,
Yea, all which it inherits, ſhall diſſolve;
And, like the baſeleſs fabric of a viſion,
Leave not a rack behind.

Gay, ſo celebrated on account of his Fables, has the following lines on his tomb:

Life is a jeſt, and all things ſhew it:
I thought ſo once, but now I know it.

Theſe

Theſe monuments, erected to the *manes* of great men, and which have eternized the very artiſts employed in them, form a ſpectacle equally impreſſive and magnificent. England is undoubtedly the country in Europe where learning is moſt nobly recompenſed: it is this ſentiment which has been expreſſed with ſo much truth and propriety by Engel on the tomb of Leſſing.

Wenn er ein Teut ſcher nicht, wenn er ein Britte waere,
So ſchloſſe ſeinen ſarg die Gruft der Koenge ein,
So würd ein Volk, gefühlvoll für die Ehre,
Ihm œffentlich ein ewig Denkmal weihn.

"If he had been an Engliſhman, inſtead of a "German, his body would have been entombed "among kings. A nation to whom honour is "ſo dear, would have erected a monument to his "memory at the public expence, and rendered "his name immortal!"

Weſtminſter abbey alſo contains the bodies of many ſovereigns; among others are the monuments of Henry VII. and Henry VIII. Their ſucceſſors have not been equally honoured. Elizabeth herſelf has only a ſimple epitaph. Inſtead of ſculpture, they have of late adopted the ſingular and childiſh cuſtom of placing a portrait

trait in wax over the grave, which becomes hideous at the end of a few years.

In the reign of queen Anne the parliament granted four thouſand pounds ſterling for the repairing of this church.

This is the place to recount a ſingular anecdote, to which the beſt Engliſh hiſtorians, although they were too prudent to declare it on account of the honour of the nation, are yet nevertheleſs ſaid to have given credit.

If we are to believe tradition, the body of the unfortunate Charles I. was immediately after decollation buried in the chapel of Windſor caſtle; it is ſtill ſaid to remain in a vault under the choir, of which no one either does know, or at leaſt chooſes to own the ſituation. This ſtrange ignorance of ſuch a remarkable circumſtance, and which leaves ſo much to ſuppoſition, is an argument in favour of what I am about to relate.

It is aſſerted, that ſome royaliſts conveyed in the moſt ſecret manner the remains of their ſovereign from Windſor to Weſtminſter abbey. On the reſtoration of Charles II. the ſuppoſed body of Cromwell was dug up, dragged through

the ſtreets, and expoſed on a gallows. Now it is pretended that, either through a miſtake, or a concerted deſign, this was actually the corpſe of Charles I. which experienced this ignominious uſage; for when, in the preſence of an innumerable crowd of ſpectators, the executioner was about to cut off the head, to his utter aſtoniſhment, he found that the ceremony had been already performed.

The more modern churches in London are built with a conſiderable ſhare of taſte: but I ſhall only mention St. Martin's, the front of which is an imitation of the Pantheon at Rome. The connoiſſeurs, however, are much diſguſted to ſee in all of them ſteeples and belfries, inſtead of domes, which are ſo much more majeſtic. A metropolis poſſeſſed of ſuch immenſe riches, and which boaſts of, perhaps, two of the beſt architects in Europe *, ought to excel in this ſpecies of buildings.

Adam has erected towards the Thames a pile of buildings, called the Adelphi, which, on account of their convenience and ſituation, may be

* Mr. Adam and Sir W. Chambers.

quoted

quoted as models. All the houſes are built on arches, whoſe grandeur and ſolidity deſerve to be compared to thoſe magnificent common ſewers which at this very day are accounted among the wonders of ancient Rome.

Many of the Engliſh, with great propriety, imagine that, if the preſent king had a taſte for architecture, and would uſe his powerful influence in raiſing palaces and other public buildings worthy of the nation, London would actually become the moſt ſuperb city in Europe.

It is extremely probable that, if the unfortunate American war had not taken place, and the flouriſhing trade of theſe proud iſlanders had continued, in twenty years time their capital would have excited the jealouſy of all the ſurrounding nations.

The Manſion-houſe, where the chief magiſtrate of the city reſides during his mayoralty, ought alſo to be mentioned. It was built about half a century ago, at a period when the Engliſh were not initiated in the fine arts. The common council being aſſembled on purpoſe to examine the plans laid before them for this edifice, a nobleman who had been in Italy ſent them a

deſign of Palladio's, which he had brought with him from that country; and which, as they were determined to ſpare no expence, was by its elegance and grandeur peculiarly adapted for the purpoſe.

Theſe reſpectable citizens, however, were entirely unacquainted with Palladio; they deſired to know who he was, and wanted very much to ſee and converſe with him. After a long debate, an alderman obſerved, that Palladio was a foreigner who had been dead for ſome years, and that it would be exceedingly ridiculous to execute the plan of a ſtranger, when London produced ſo many excellent architects.

After this he propoſed a ſhip-carpenter, who was immediately accepted without any difficulty.

This man accordingly planned and executed the building, as may be eaſily ſeen at the firſt glance; for the front exactly reſembles the *ſtern of a man of war*. The apartments are obſcure and badly diſtributed, and the ſtairs, which look like *ladders*, are very ill contrived. It is in this edifice, which taken altogether has nothing abſolutely diſagreeable in its appearance, that the

lord mayor is obliged to reſide, notwithſtanding he may have a houſe of his own in the neighbourhood.

The beauty and grandeur of the three principal bridges acroſs the Thames, are a high proof of the wealth of the nation, and of its paſſion for great enterpriſes. I ſhould bluſh to compare the *Pont Neuf* and *Pont Royal* at Paris to thoſe of Weſtminſter or Blackfriars. An Engliſhman is proud, but he is not a boaſter; we therefore hear but little of theſe maſter-pieces of architecture, which by their grandeur, magnificence, and conveniency, are the firſt works of this kind that are to be found in Europe. I will not even except the Rialto at Venice; for the unpoliſhed blocks of marble with which it is compoſed, have nothing magnificent in their appearance. Even the ſingle arch of which it conſiſts, and which is ſo famous on account of its grandeur and extent, has been rivalled in Great Britain by a bridge acroſs the Don in Ayrſhire, the two extremities of which are placed on the oppoſite banks of the river, and are 90 feet diſtant from each other. The ſpan of the Rialto is exactly of the ſame dimenſions.

The new bridges at London are equally grand

and commodious. That of Weſtminſter is 1223 feet long, and 44 broad. It is extremely well paved; the ſides are adorned with ſtone baluſtrades; the foot-paths are broad; the lamps are numerous, and the alcoves placed at proper diſtances ſhelter the paſſengers from the rain. It has fifteen arches; the centre one of which is 66 feet in width; they are all adorned with columns, and remarkably well vaulted.

This immenſe pile, which was twelve years in building, coſt one hundred and fifty thouſand pounds.

The prodigious expence did not, however, prevent them from immediately laying the foundation of another, called Blackfriars, which is placed in the centre of the city, and joins it to the county of Surry. It is ſtill more elegant and magnificent than that of Weſtminſter Its arches are adorned with columns of the Ionic order, and placed two and two; their baſes touch the river, and have a fine effect. This bridge was entirely conſtructed at the expence of the citizens, and coſt one hundred and ſixty thouſand pounds, which was repaid by means of a toll on carriages, horſes, and foot paſſengers.

Some

Some years ſince another was projected, betwixt the two new ones: the execution, however, of this has been deferred.

Notwithſtanding London bridge is a very good one, yet it is nothing comparable to the others. The ſolidity of it, however (for it was built more than 800 years ſince), gives us a favourable idea of the ancient manner of building. Its arches are low, and very narrow: circumſtances which, together with the rapidity of the ſtream, occaſion many accidents.

Formerly this bridge was covered with houſes, like *Notre Dame* at Paris.

Near to this ſtands a column of the Doric order, commonly called the *Monument*; it was built to perpetuate the memory of the fire by which London ſuffered ſo ſeverely in the year 1666. Being erected in the very place where the conflagration began, all its beauty is loſt by the badneſs of its ſituation. It is two hundred feet perpendicular, and conſequently exceeds in height that of Trajan at Rome; it has like it a winding ſtair-caſe in the inſide. The ſum appropriated to its erection was thirty thouſand pounds ſterling.

As its fall is continually apprehended, and would be attended with the moſt fatal conſequences, it has been often propoſed to remove this immenſe quarry of ſtone.

The Royal Exchange and the Bank ought not to be forgotten. The exchange is not the largeſt, but it is certainly the moſt magnificent in the world. It is decorated with ſtatues of the kings of Great Britain, and ſurrounded by a prodigious number of coffee-houſes, where the merchants tranſact their buſineſs. Its ſituation is extremely convenient, being only a few ſteps from the Poſt-office, the Manſion-houſe, Guildhall, the India-houſe, &c. &c. &c.

Although the bank is only one ſtory high, it is nevertheleſs a fine building. Moſt of the apartments are lighted from the top, and the ſtoves are contrived with ſo much art, that neither the door nor the tunnel can be perceived: each of theſe coſt a hundred pounds ſterling. As the bank is the property of the nation, all the offices in this immenſe edifice are open to every one; in the outer hall, there are tables on which pens, ink, &c. are placed for even the loweſt of the populace, although they may have no buſineſs there.

How-

However trivial theſe little circumſtances may appear to ſome people, I cannot but admire even in them that republican ſpirit which animates the whole nation.

The ſhops and warehouſes, which join each other, and ſometimes extend for a whole mile without interruption, ſtrike a foreigner with ſurpriſe. The part towards the ſtreet generally conſiſts of a bow-window and a glaſs-door, through which every article that is elegant and faſhionable may be ſeen, arranged with the utmoſt taſte and ſymmetry.

Mathematical inſtruments, and every thing curious in that ſcience, which for rarity and perfection are not to be ſurpaſſed in the palaces of princes, appear in abundance. Nothing can be more ſuperb than the ſilver-ſmiths' ſhops. In looking at the prodigious quantity of plate piled up and expoſed there, one can only form a proper idea of the riches of the nation. The greateſt ſhops in *St. Honoré* at Paris, appear contemptible when compared with thoſe in London. I have ſeen in Cheapſide (and it is a well known fact) a warehouſe of this kind, the contents of

which were eſtimated at a hundred thouſand pounds ſterling.

The print-ſhops are actually ſo many galleries of painting. To the number of privileges enjoyed by theſe iſlanders may be added that of publiſhing *caricatures*, which ridicule the occurrences of the times.

The French compoſe ſongs; the Dutch, of a duller caſt, ſtrike medals; but the Engliſh have choſen *engravings* as the moſt proper vehicle for their ſatire. In 1784, when Mr. Fox carried every thing before him in the Houſe of Commons, he was repreſented ſitting at a mirror which reflected the picture of Oliver Cromwell.

The government of the city is an exact copy in miniature of that of the whole kingdom. Like the latter, it is divided into three diſtinct branches; the lord mayor repreſents the king; the court of aldermen the Houſe of Peers, and the common council the Houſe of Commons. The latter are choſen by the *livery*, who form a body of nine thouſand citizens. There are no emoluments attached to the rank of alderman; it is the honour, the influence, and the hope of becoming the chief magi-

magiſtrate, which makes that ſituation deſirable. However, if the office of alderman is not lucrative, no expence is entailed on the execution of it:—but that of ſheriff often amounts to two or three thouſand pounds ſterling in a ſingle year.

When Wilkes was appointed to this office, his friends ſubſcribed the neceſſary ſums. This being the firſt ſtep towards the mayoralty, the court employed every artifice to prevent him, but in vain. As the influence of the miniſter is very trifling in the corporation, it ſo happens that the citizens of London are not very much in favour at St. James's: they, however, conſole themſelves with the beſt grace in the world. They repeat with great pleaſure a witty expreſſion made uſe of by one of their body, in the reign of Charles II. That monarch being greatly diſcontented with the citizens, who would not conſent to *lend* him certain ſums to ſupport his fooliſh diſſipation, one day menaced a deputation who preſented him an addreſs, with the threat of leaving London and keeping his court at Oxford. An alderman on this occaſion, turning towards a courtier, obſerved, "That the king ſeemed to "be in a great paſſion." "I hope, however," adds he, "that when his majeſty removes, he

"will not carry the river Thames along with "him." This ſally had its proper effect, and no Engliſh monarch has ever ſince thought proper to expreſs a ſimilar intention.

No perſon can become a liveryman of London without being admitted into one of the twenty-ſix companies, of which that body conſiſts. A member whoſe name is regiſtered in any of theſe may aſpire to the firſt employments in the capital, notwithſtanding he may be one of the very dregs of the people; ſuch as a taylor, a blackſmith, &c. &c. When princes and people of quality are preſented with the freedom of the city of London, they are always requeſted to name their *trade*; and it is generally that of the lord mayor that is fixed upon. The preſent king of Denmark is a member of the goldſmiths' company.

The lord mayor ſits every day at the Manſion-houſe to diſtribute juſtice, which he does without *appeal* in trifling diſputes; in matters of greater conſequence the culprit is ſent to priſon, and takes his trial in the uſual manner.

If the chief magiſtrate for a moment ſhould de-

depart from the line of conduct prescribed to him by the laws, he is obliged to submit to justice like one of the meanest citizens.

As there are no justices of the peace in the city, the aldermen supply their place, and settle petty differences. Like all other magistrates, they are obliged to release a prisoner on giving bail, except in the cases of high-treason and felony.

The office of lord mayor is not only very honourable, but has also a considerable revenue annexed to it. The citizens look upon him as their *king*. The number of his attendants, his equipages, and his rich liveries, give a certain degree of splendour to this dignity. He is addressed by the title of "My lord," even by the sovereign. A prodigious number of privileges are attached to his office. The military cannot enter the city without his permission, nor can any seaman be impressed there, unless he backs the warrant. He is also conservator of the Thames.

The principal part of his revenue proceeds from the sale of places that become vacant dur-

ing his mayoralty. It is always cuſtomary, on entering upon his charge, to give a great entertainment which concludes with a ball: all the nobility are invited on the occaſion; very few, however, attend.

It is very uncommon to ſee the ſame perſon twice lord mayor. William Beckford, however, who to uncommon knowledge and great patriotiſm united a revenue of thirty thouſand a year, was for the ſecond time inveſted with this diginity in 1769. He was conſequently in that office in 1770, the time when the city, and a great number of the Engliſh counties, petitioned the ſovereign to call a new parliament; for that had, by its conduct in regard to Wilkes, entirely loſt the favour of the public: but the king, who thought it his intereſt to continue it, conſtantly refuſed the requeſt. The city of London, however, reiterated their complaints; and the lord mayor, the ſheriffs, and common council were continually going to St. James's, where his majeſty, according to cuſtom, received them on the throne; the anſwer, however, was uniformly the ſame, viz. "That the king was content with his parlia-"ment; but, as he always ſhould eſteem it a plea-"ſure to attend to the ſolicitations of his people,

"that

" that he would conſider of their petition, &c.
" &c."

Beckford, who was diſguſted at being obliged, on account of his ſituation, to act the firſt character in this farce, ſecretly reſolved to treat the affair in a more ſerious manner.

In conſequence of this, he repairs with a numerous train to court, reads the petition, and receives the uſual reply. It is then the cuſtom, after kiſſing his majeſty's hand, to retire; but Beckford, who had not gone there on account of a ceremony ſo little conformable to the genius of a free people, turned towards the king, and addreſſed him again in a ſpeech delivered with the moſt profound reſpect, but at the ſame time with the moſt undaunted firmneſs, beſeeching his majeſty " not to treat the petition of the firſt city in " his kingdom with ſo much indifference, but to " yield to the continual ſolicitations of his " people."

This addreſs was not only unexpected, but even without example. I myſelf was one of the ſpectators, and I confeſs that I never in my whole life have been witneſs to ſuch an extraordinary

nary affair. The confuſion and diſmay of the courtiers were perceptible in their countenances, while the citizens ſhewed in the moſt unequivocal manner, that the courage of their chief magiſtrate gave them the higheſt ſatisfaction.

In the mean time Mr. Beckford ſtood before them, and with the utmoſt tranquillity expected the royal anſwer. As the king, however, was not *prepared*, a profound ſilence reigned for ſome minutes in the audience chamber, during which the ſpectators appeared mute and ſtupefied. At laſt the lord mayor, thinking it time to put an end to ſuch a ſtrange ſcene, bowed and departed.

One may eaſily imagine how much they were diſguſted with this conduct at St. James's, where they termed it impudent, and threatened to commit his lordſhip to the Tower: in the city, however, he was preſented with the thanks of the corporation, which were accompanied with the moſt flattering marks of regard and eſteem.

Being obliged eight days afterwards to return to St. James's to congratulate his majeſty on the ſafe delivery of the queen, the lord chamberlain, after

after having mentioned his former behaviour, informed him at the ſame time, that a repetition of ſuch a conduct would occaſion the city of London to be deprived of the privilege of preſenting their petitions to the king *while ſitting on the throne.*

Beckford on this requeſted that the declaration might be given him in writing; and, on the refuſal of the chamberlain, obſerved, that he ſhould conſider ſuch a menace as if it had not been uttered.

This great patriot happening to die a few months afterwards, the city of London erected a monument to his memory in Guildhall. It is of white marble, and as large as the life. He is dreſſed in his robes; ſtands in the ſame poſition as when replying to his majeſty's anſwer; and, inſtead of an inſcription, the ſpeech itſelf is engraven on the pedeſtal.

It is not at all uncommon to ſee an orator turn towards this ſtatue, invoke the *manes* of Beckford, and conjure his fellow-citizens by the memory of this great man, never to loſe ſight of the public welfare. It is in this manner that thoſe

thoſe illuſtrious iſlanders ſo gloriouſly imitate the ancient Romans, and prove by their actions how advantageous patriotiſm is to a nation, notwithſtanding it may ſometimes be carried to a blameable exceſs.

CHAP.

CHAPTER V.

The State of Religion in England—Toleration—The Catholics—The Clergy—The Puritans—The Methodiſts—Whitfield—Sunday—Anniverſary of the Martyrdom of Charles I.—Quakers—Anabaptiſts—Deiſm—The Reverend Mr. Williams—Suicide—Hon. Mr. Damer—Lord Clive—The Jews—Doctor Falkon—The Philoſopher's Stone—Linguet.

VOLTAIRE obſerves that, if there was only one religion in England, deſpotiſm would infallibly enſue:—if there were but two, adds he, they would cut one another's throats; but as ſuch a number of ſects are there tolerated, who worſhip the Supreme Being in ſo many different manners, a *holy enthuſiaſm* never troubles

troubles their minds, and they live in quiet and tranquillity. This remark is undoubtedly juſt; and the tumult in 1780, in which the name of the proteſtant religion was made uſe of as a pretence, proves nothing to the contrary.

The legiſlative power has reduced the principles of toleration to a ſyſtem which ſeems to have attained the higheſt degree of perfection; and it ought to be remarked to the honour of the Engliſh parliament, that at the moment when they were ſurrounded by a furious multitude, and the life of every member was in danger, no one propoſed the repeal of the bill in favour of the Roman Catholics, which had occaſioned the tumult.

If the tenets of the eſtabliſhed faith were alone permitted, the people would ſoon groan under the preſſure of ſlavery; for the king is head of the church, and in that capacity his power is unlimited.

Perſecution, a practice which the chriſtians have borrowed from the jews, and which they have made uſe of againſt them, will never, in all probability, take root in England. The prodigious number of diſſenters; the liberty with which mankind

mankind are there allowed to think and to act as they pleaſe; their intercourſe with foreign nations, which is the ſource of their riches; and a thouſand other conſiderations, all tend to eſtabliſh that toleration to which the kingdom owes its grandeur, its opulence, and its proſperity.

It may not be improper to quote here a celebrated ſaying of lord Cheſterfield's to a monk at Rome. The holy zealot having aſſured him that he was about to make a voyage to England, with the ſole view of converting the inhabitants to the catholic faith, and *that he was ready to ſuffer every thing for the ſake of religion:* "You will be too "late, my good father," replies the earl: "it is in "vain that you are ſolicitous to obtain the crown "of martyrdom; alas! my ungrateful countrymen beſtow it now no more."

To obtain any employment under the government, it is neceſſary to take the oaths of ſupremacy and allegiance; but as the catholics either cannot or will not take them, they are deprived of a great many advantages, and excluded from a number of offices, to which their birth and their merits fully entitle them.

The firſt and moſt ancient family in England is

is in this predicament: it is that of Howard, of which the duke of Norfolk is the head; to this title the office of hereditary marſhal of England is attached: his religion, however, not only precludes him from executing the duties of this high employment in perſon, but alſo from taking his ſeat in the Houſe of Peers *.

The catholics in England have their biſhops as well as the proteſtants: theſe commonly reſide in London, and live on eleemoſynary contributions. Among theſe *titular* prelates there is an archbiſhop of Canterbury, who is their head. In the year 1778 there were forty thouſand members of the church of Rome in the capital; I doubt whether there are at preſent ſo many in all the other parts of the kingdom, as the chapels of the foreign miniſters attract prodigious numbers to the metropolis. There are a great many, however, in Lancaſhire, Staffordſhire, and Suſſex.

Notwithſtanding the clergy of the church of England have large incomes, and its dignitaries

* Since our author wrote, lord Surry, now a member of the church of England, has ſucceeded to the dukedom of Norfolk.

live

live in great magnificence, they are but very little reſpected by the people. The reaſon is evident. The various ſects that prevail in that iſland, weaken the intereſts of religion in general, and inſpire but little eſteem for theſe eccleſiaſtics, who live, for the moſt part, according to their own caprice. The exceſſes alſo, and the depredations they commit, leſſen the reſpect that their ſacred function ought to inſpire. Soon after the execution of Dr. Dodd for forgery, another prieſt was puniſhed for debauching young girls from ten to twelve years of age, whom he had been employed to inſtruct in the principles of morality and religion.

It is common to ſee clergymen fight duels;—I ſhall ſay nothing of their drunkenneſs, and a thouſand other ſcandalous vices which they practiſe without ſhame. They are often impriſoned for debt; and it is only twenty years ſince, that they uſed to adminiſter one of the moſt aweful ceremonies of religion, for a mere trifle.

They do not now celebrate clandeſtine marriages: formerly it was not neceſſary to run to Scotland to marry againſt the will of parents and guardians; a number of wretches were ready at all

all times of the day to beſtow the nuptial benediction for the ſum of two ſhillings. When one of them had pawned his gown—a circumſtance not at all uncommon—he uſed to officiate in a brown or grey coat, and tie the *happy pair* as firmly together as a prelate clothed in his pontifical veſtments, and adminiſtering the ceremony at the altar of his cathedral.

The church of England is governed by two archbiſhops and twenty-four biſhops. The archbiſhop of Canterbury, who is the chief, is at the ſame time primate of England, and ranks next to the princes of the blood. He has twenty-one biſhops under him; the remaining three are ſuffragans of the archbiſhop of York. All theſe prelates ſit in the Houſe of Peers, and are commonly devoted to the intereſts of the court. It is very uncommon to ſee them take part in the political debates, even if they are eloquent, for fear of expoſing their dignity, which the peers in oppoſition would not, perhaps, have the modeſty to reſpect.

As the clergy in all ages, and among all people, could never brook contradiction; and as this prerogative, which they arrogate to themſelves, is not allowed in England, they have very wiſely reſolved

reſolved to remain ſilent, and be altogether paſſive in parliament.

In the ages of barbarity and ignorance a law was enacted in favour of the church, equally ſingular and ridiculous; and as it formed one of the privileges of a numerous and powerful body, it would be very difficult, even now, to repeal it. At the time when the civil and eccleſiaſtical ſtates formed two ſeparate and diſtinct bodies, and when none but the prieſthood had any knowledge of learning, if a culprit was able to decypher a few of the Gothic characters in which the Bible was then written, he was allowed to eſcape from puniſhment.

As every one is able to read at this enlightened period, the penal ſtatutes have now always a clauſe, excluding the benefit of clergy.

The principles of toleration adopted by the Engliſh, account for the little zeal diſplayed by them in making proſelytes to their religion.

Scarce a ſingle miſſionary is to be met with in all their immenſe territories in Aſia. There are only a few methodiſts, and ſome anabaptiſts, led thither by enthuſiaſm.

The

The laws oblige every ſhip navigated by a hundred men to carry a clergyman with them; this is ſtrictly obſerved in all the king's ſhips; the Eaſt India company, however, regarding the church as a very unprofitable part of a cargo, take only ninety-nine men on board, and thus evade the ſtatute. That opulent body never trouble themſelves about religion; for throughout all Bengal there is neither church nor chapel.

The puritans are properly nothing elſe but Calviniſts; for all their ceremonies and principles are founded on the doctrines of that reformer. The French proteſtants, however, do not join in their communion, but, as in Germany, follow their own liturgy, and perform divine ſervice to this day in the French language. Their countrymen are ready to conclude from thence, that to reſtore ſo many thouſands to their native ſoil, the free exerciſe of their religion is only wanting. I doubt, however, whether ſuch a toleration would make any impreſſion on the *refugees* in England or Holland, and far leſs on thoſe who reſide in Germany.

The methodiſts form a very numerous body: Whitfield was their founder. He was a man of profound knowledge and inflexible virtue, and has

has only died a few years ſince. It was cuſtomary with him to preach in the moſt frequented ſtreets and ſquares in London. His intention was, to reform and purify the morals of his fellow-citizens. The novelty of his ſermons, and the place where he delivered them, always procured him a numerous auditory. The clergy were alarmed, and all the pulpits reſounded with imprecations againſt this man, who was deſcribed as at once a fool and a fanatic. From that moment the people began to perſecute this zealous reformer, wherever he had the courage to appear. To outrage he oppoſed ſweetneſs of temper and invincible patience; and, by means of this ſage conduct, multiplied the number of his adherents. People of diſtinction, who viſited him from curioſity, often became his diſciples.

His ſobriety and diſcretion were very remarkable: his honeſty alſo was unimpeachable; for he diſtributed, with a ſcrupulous exactneſs, the *alms* that were confided to his care. At length, being incapable of adminiſtering the duties of his miſſion to ſuch immenſe crowds as attended him daily, he called in the aſſiſtance of ſome of his friends, and particularly of the celebrated Mr. Weſley. Soon after he built a church in the neighbourhood of Moor-fields, called The Taber-

nacle, which is ſtill held in high eſtimation by his followers; many of whom have erected houſes in the neighbourhood.

Whitfield went four times to America to preach this doctrine, and was amply rewarded for his zeal. If ever the chief of a ſect merited the eſteem of a philoſopher, it is without contradiction this ſingular man. Without being impelled by ambition, or avarice, to carry on his projected reformation, he remained till his laſt moment faithful to his *aim*; which was, to make mankind better by means of a purer ſyſtem of morals.

It is eaſy to perceive from the *phlegm* with which the Engliſh perform the duties of their religion, that they are very little impreſſed by a ſenſe of its awfulneſs. Even in a collegiate church, when they are *chaunting* in full choir, the cold, inanimate, and ſometimes irreverent manner in which they acquit themſelves, ſhocks the feelings of a ſtranger.

The clergy and the laity who wiſh to paſs for good chriſtians, ſeem to think that abſtaining from all work and worldly affairs on a Sunday entitles them to ſuch denomination. This Judaical

cal and popular cuſtom is ſupported by a ſtatute which was enacted when puritaniſm was in full vigour, and which has not a little contributed to that gloomy taciturnity which forms ſuch a conſpicuous feature in an Engliſhman's character.

The above law prohibits the amuſements of muſic and dancing on the only day when the tradeſman or mechanic has time to divert himſelf.

We cannot but deplore the weakneſs of human nature on beholding great and enlightened men becoming the zealous partizans of ridiculous and even pernicious cuſtoms. The learned Dr. Johnſon was ſo attached to this in particular, that, on his death-bed, he conjured Sir Joſhua Reynolds to grant him one requeſt:—The Engliſh Apelles promiſed his aſſent—and found it to be—"That he would not paint *on a Sunday*."

The pulpit is often made uſe of in the capital to inſinuate and propagate political principles. The court party generally make uſe of this method, which is notwithſtanding always hurtful to their intereſts. The clergy on ſuch occaſions are invariably led by the hope of preferment: no one,

however, is *duped* by their conduct. When they confine themſelves to ſubjects in which politics are not concerned, they are for the moſt part heard with attention.

Soon after the earthquake at Liſbon, they declaimed againſt maſquerades, and occaſioned the abolition of that ſpecies of amuſement for many years.

By proving that *inoculation* was an uſeful and a neceſſary operation, they brought it into faſhion: they even went ſo far as to intereſt the conſcience of parents, and make it appear a duty.

All *faſts* are appointed by the king, as head of the church. Thoſe days are not ſo ſolemn as Sundays: they are, however, literally *penitentiary* to the poor, who by means of them are prevented from procuring food for their wives and children.

The anniverſary of the unfortunate Charles I. which is celebrated on the 30th of January, has now degenerated into a *mere farce*. Wilkes once aſſerted in the Houſe of Commons, that this day was the moſt glorious in the annals of his country!

I beg

I beg leave to obſerve here, that the opinions concerning any monarch of modern times have never been ſo contradictory, as in reſpect to that ſovereign. Among many, he paſſes as a ſtate criminal who merited his fate: the greater number, however, revere him as a ſaint who was the innocent victim of a party compoſed of fanatical and ambitious men.

The famous Hume has not a little contributed, in his Hiſtory of England, to propagate this latter opinion. The end he propoſed was undoubtedly to ſacrifice the public confidence, of which every hiſtorian ought to be ambitious, on the altar of riches and preferment. At the reign of Elizabeth he leaves the right road, and ceaſes to follow the track of truth. Thoſe who wiſh to inveſtigate the hiſtory of that country under the government of the houſe of Stuart, can follow no better guide than Rapin de Thoyras; an impartial writer, who has proved all his aſſertions by authentic documents, and by that means acquired and maintained an extraordinary degree of reputation in England.

But if we will ſuppoſe for a moment that the innocence of Charles is only imaginary, it muſt be allowed that a free people, who have eſtabliſhed

certain principles of their own concerning the laws and the rights of human nature, are alone capable of judging whether, in such a case, a head encircled by a royal diadem merits the hatchet of an executioner. The philosopher of another country can only think in his closet on this tragical and memorable event.

I now return to my subject. The Quakers in England, twenty years ago, amounted to sixty thousand: they are not so numerous at present. The young men, in whom religious fervour is not so ardent as formerly, abjure a faith which excludes them from all employments and dignities. The young women, too, are by it limited in their ambition, with regard to marriage; and their vanity is not a little mortified, with respect to dress, which is so natural to their age and sex. As they cannot use fancy colours, nor wear powder, feathers, ribbands, nor jewels, they usually wear the dearest stuffs: this does not, however, compensate for what they lose in regard to other parts of their apparel.

The coats of the men are generally without buttons and without plaits; the hats are also large and round: many, however, neglect all this, and appear like other people. The most zealous of

the ſect are thoſe only who ſtill preſerve an outward diſtinction: their averſion to oaths and criminal proſecutions is a characteriſtic common to all.

The legiſlative power has been exceedingly indulgent towards them. Their ſolemn affirmation is admitted in every caſe where the life or liberty of the ſubject is not intereſted. One never ſees a quaker the proſecutor in a criminal action. Their averſion to war is ſo great, that, during the invaſion of the ſavages of Pennſylvania in 1775, they allowed their country to be ravaged, and their fellow-citizens to be maſſacred, without chooſing to revenge them. They remained deaf to all their calamities and misfortunes; and it was not till deſpair had taken poſſeſſion of their ſouls, and the dead bodies of their ſlaughtered brethren had been expoſed before the ſtate-houſe at Philadelphia, that the quakers conſented to take up arms.

The Anabaptiſts decreaſe in numbers, and for the very ſame reaſon as the quakers. They do not affect to diſtinguiſh themſelves from the reſt of mankind by the originality of their dreſs, manners, or language.

It is at Chelſea, a village beautifully ſituated on the banks of the Thames, where their principal place of worſhip is; they have alſo ſeveral others in London.

Notwithſtanding the prodigious number of different perſuaſions in England, *deiſm* makes a rapid progreſs. The reverend Mr. Williams, in the year 1776, formed the reſolution of eſtabliſhing a new ſect. In conſequence of this, he hired a chapel in the metropolis, and procured a great number of ſubſcribers. This hardy attempt made much noiſe. Two letters, one from the late king of Pruſſia, and the other written by Voltaire to this clergyman, in which theſe two great men beſtowed many praiſes on his undertaking, helped to make the attempt ſtill more remarkable. As this projector joined ſome talents to a great knowledge of the world, he put in practice every ſcheme to eſtabliſh his enterpriſe. One might then ſee a circumſtance before unexampled in the annals of mankind: a numerous aſſembly compoſed of people of all religions united under one head, laying aſide all manner of myſteries and ceremonies, and adoring the God of the univerſe in concert. The ſervice had ſomething in it very engaging on account of its ſimplicity; but its ſameneſs was not ſufficiently

faſcinating

faſcinating to mankind in general. To the *deiſt* it was, however, too ceremonious; becauſe it is very difficult to perſuade him of the utility of any form of worſhip whatever.

In fine, the ſcheme failed. Theſe meetings have not been held for ſome years paſt; and the chapel is now become a conventicle for methodiſts. Williams has publiſhed his liturgy. It is an excellent work; has had much ſucceſs, and is ſtill read with pleaſure.

Deiſm is in a great degree the cauſe of ſuicide—a crime at preſent ſo common in England. The Engliſh have actually a form of prayer, in which they beſeech God to baniſh from the hearts of his ſervants ſuch a frightful temptation!

The crime, however, is as frequently committed at Paris as in London; a circumſtance which proves very forcibly to me, that this epidemical diſorder proceeds leſs from the climate and the uſe of ſea-coal fires, than we imagine on the continent. The Engliſh view it as a diſeaſe of the ſoul, which, far from deſerving reproach, ought rather to excite compaſſion. The puniſhment, which, to the diſgrace of reaſon, is ſtill in many countries attached to ſelf-murder, never reſtrains

deſpair, which mocks it, but falls wholly on innocent and afflicted families.

This malady (for I can call it no other) often gives occaſion to the moſt ſingular ſcenes. I one day beheld an ill-dreſſed man, with a countenance diſtorted by a thouſand paſſions, who walked backwards and forwards on the baluſtrade of Blackfriars-bridge, and ſeemed to be in the moſt profound reverie. The danger that he was expoſed to, ſoon made him remarked, and occaſioned great inquietude to the paſſengers. One perſon having urged him to deſcend, he made no anſwer: at length ſome of the ſpectators becoming more preſſing in their entreaties, he aſked one of them if he would do him a favour. On being anſwered in the affirmative, he beſought him to find out a certain perſon, whoſe dwelling he deſcribed with the utmoſt exactneſs, and recount to him what he had ſeen.—With theſe words he leapt into the Thames.

The conduct of the honourable Mr. Damer, only ſon to lord Milton, was ſtill more extraordinary, and gave riſe to a thouſand melancholy reflections. Young, handſome, tenderly beloved by his father, nearly adored by the ladies, and with all the honours and dignities of the ſtate within

within his reach, he conceived a ſudden diſguſt to life.

Having repaired to a bagnio, he commanded twelve of the moſt handſome women of the town to be brought to him, and gave orders that they ſhould be ſupplied with all manner of delicacies. Having afterwards bolted the door, he made them undreſs one another, and, when naked, requeſted them to amuſe him with the moſt voluptuous attitudes. About an hour afterwards he diſmiſſed them, loaded with preſents, and then, drawing a piſtol from his pocket, immediately put an end to his exiſtence. This happened in the year 1776.

It is mortifying to reflect that this hatred to exiſtence ſhould have taken poſſeſſion of the mind of ſo great a man as lord Clive, who alſo terminated his glorious career with his own hand. It is neither his rank nor his immenſe riches, but his great abilities and his extraordinary exploits in Aſia, which make him appear great in my eyes. I am convinced that this nobleman, as a general and ſtateſman, would have been equally eminent in Europe as in Aſia. Let it be remembered, however, that I ſpeak of nothing but his talents, as I am very careful of

ſaying much about his private character. If the clamours of plundered and oppreſſed Indians and Europeans had never reached from the borders of the Ganges to the banks of the Thames, his immenſe riches alone would have atteſted his inſatiable avarice. All his treaſures, however, could not prevent a proſecution againſt him, which expoſed his character to obloquy, and his conduct to obſervation; and which, by inſenſibly augmenting the melancholy that had long preyed on his mind, precipitated that fatal reſolution which delivered mankind from the ſcourge of Aſia.

The Jews are allowed in England, as well as in Holland, the free exerciſe of their religion; their numbers and their riches are therefore continually augmenting. One is aſtoniſhed at the prodigious difference between the Portugueſe and German Jews eſtabliſhed in that iſland. Dreſs, language, manners, cleanlineſs, are all in favour of the former, who indeed can ſcarce be diſtinguiſhed from Chriſtians. This extends even to their prejudices and their public worſhip: the features peculiar to the whole race are the only peculiarity that they have in common.

The

The famous Toland, in the year 1715, recommended the naturalization of this people; a circumſtance that actually took place in 1752, by means of an act of parliament. However, the general diſcontent of the nation, occaſioned by the German Jews (a claſs of men who may be looked upon as the very refuſe of human nature), obliged the legiſlature to repeal it in the courſe of the following year.

All the children of Iſrael, who are obliged to quit Holland and Germany, take refuge in England, where they live by roguery: if they themſelves do not ſteal, they at leaſt help to conceal and to diſpoſe of the plunder. They are therefore ſo much hated in England, that the honeſty of their Portugueſe brethren cannot weaken the unfavourable impreſſion which ſuch a band of robbers has occaſioned.

There is a perſon of this nation called Cain Chenul Falk, but better known by the name of Doctor Falkon, who for thirty years has been famous for his cabaliſtical diſcoveries. He lives in a large houſe; is attended by a ſmall number of domeſtics; is engaged in no manner of buſineſs; and gives away a great deal of money to the poor. When he goes out, which is indeed

but ſeldom, he is always clothed in a long robe, which agrees very well with his flowing beard, and noble figure. He is now in the 70th year of his age. I ſhall not here recount the wonderful and incredible ſtories told of this old man. It is moſt probable that he is a very great chymiſt; and that he has, in that occult ſcience, made ſome extraordinary diſcoveries, which he does not chooſe to communicate. A certain prince, who was very zealous in his ſearch after the philoſopher's ſtone, ſome years ago wiſhed to pay him a viſit. Falkon, however, could not be prevailed upon to grant him an interview.

It may be eaſily imagined that, in a city like London, there are a great number of weak people who may be eaſily impoſed upon. As the Engliſh have a high opinion of the German alchymiſts, the projectors of that country often pretend to have found out the art of making gold, and dupe them of their guineas by means of this ſtale trick.

Magic, contented with exerciſing its deſpotiſm within the ten circles of High Germany, has not as yet, by a bold flight, attempted to croſs the ocean.

ocean. If this filly and ridiculous paſſion were ever to take root in England, its effects would be very uncommon in that country, where every thing is in extremes.

In the year 1777, Linguet went to London with the profeſſed intention of reforming the national character: he had, however, unfortunately neglected to learn the language.

This Frenchman was always fond of paradoxes. His pride was flattered to ſee certain objects in a different light from the reſt of mankind; he had, in his own country, written a panegyric on the virtues of a Tiberius and a Nero—two monſters, who were a diſgrace to human nature. He affirms, "That England never pro-"duced any one great man; that its boaſted "conſtitution does not preſerve liberty to the "ſubject; that the inhabitants are not in-"duſtrious; that their navy is contempti-"ble; that their ſailors are both ignorant and "cowardly; and, laſtly, that Garrick was a bad "actor."

Under pretence that he was afraid of being perſecuted by the Engliſh government, this ſingular

ſingular man ſuddenly diſappeared, and returned to his ungrateful countrymen, who recompenſed his patriotiſm with a lodging in the Baſtile.

CHAP-

CHAPTER VI.

Public Spirit—National Characteriſtics—Hoſpitals—General Wolf—The Duke de Nivernois—Generoſity of the Engliſh Ladies—Maria Thereſa—Lord Tyrconnel—Lord Chatham.

ONE of the moſt diſtinguiſhing characteriſtics of the Engliſh is their *public ſpirit*; a virtue unknown in any other country, and which no other language than theirs is able to expreſs. This paſſion conſiſts in the active zeal of every individual, to co-operate towards the general good: the very loweſt of the people poſſeſs it in a very extraordinary degree.

During the American war, many common ſailors

lors refuſed the bounty that was offered by parliament, and entered into the navy from mere attachment to their country. I have known ſeveral poor people, who, at a general election, have remained deaf to the moſt lucrative offers, and reſerved their voices for thoſe who, by their patriotiſm and their talents, were moſt capable of ſerving the ſtate.

The great number of public foundations every where to be met with, prove in an eminent degree the warmth of this national virtue. Without mentioning either the naval hoſpital of Greenwich, or the military eſtabliſhment at Chelſea, which rival royal palaces in magnificence, London contains a prodigious number of public edifices which are regulated with aſtoniſhing order. St. Bartholomew's hoſpital alone can admit 5000 patients at one time. Bedlam, which is appropriated to the cure of madneſs, is celebrated for its conveniencies, and the attention which is paid to the unfortunate wretches who happen to be afflicted with that terrible malady. At the gate are two ſtatues, executed by an Engliſh artiſt, of the name of * Cibber, which may be reckoned among the few excellent ſpecimens

* Father to Colley Cibber.

of

of ſculpture which England has produced. One of theſe repreſents a wretch abſorbed in the moſt profound melancholy; the other, a deſperate maniac loaded with chains. Theſe two figures are executed with ſo much expreſſion, that they may diſpute the palm with the firſt performances in Weſtminſter-abbey.

In regard to works of national munificence, and public utility, the court party and the oppoſition conſtantly unite. Even in places of diverſion, the Engliſh endeavour to excite patriotiſm. The moſt brilliant actions of ſome of the moſt famous of their generals are repreſented in the ſaloon at Vauxhall. It is thus that the memory of a Clive, a Boſcawen, and an Amherſt are immortalized; and that their fellow-citizens are inflamed, even in the very lap of pleaſure, with the noble emulation of rivalling their virtues.

The ſource of this lively intereſt, which every Engliſhman evinces in the affairs of his country, proceeds from the idea, that the very meaneſt ſubject is benefited by the proſperity of the commonwealth. This gives riſe to the moſt ſingular cuſtoms. After a victory, they compliment each other. The glory of a ſtate, of which every individual is a member, ſometimes affects them in

in ſuch a manner, that I have ſeen perſons remarkable for their phlegm, congratulate one another with the utmoſt tranſports of joy.

It is not till become venerable by age, that the human eye, which obſerves every thing too near it in a bad light, is at length accuſtomed to ſee things in their true point of view. We regard with an attachment bordering on enthuſiaſm, the actions of the great men of antiquity, and pay but a cold admiration to the ſame actions, when performed by our contemporaries. Of this the name of general Wolfe is a ſtriking example.

Thoſe who are acquainted with the events of the war before the laſt, muſt recollect that this great man periſhed before Quebec in the arms of victory; but few, perhaps, know that to him alone the glory of conquering Canada belongs.

Both the navy and army were agreed on the propriety of raiſing the ſiege of Quebec, which was deemed impregnable. Wolfe alone thought otherwiſe, and he was triumphant. In the midſt of the action, having received a mortal wound, he immediately fainted, and was carried out of the

the field of battle. In the mean time the enemy's line being broken, ſome of the ſoldiers employed in attending him called out, "They fly." Theſe words, as it were, penetrating to his very ſoul, recall him to life; he opens his eyes, and aſks with great eagerneſs, "Who fly?"—"The "French." "Then God be praiſed!" he replied, —and immediately expired.

Epaminondas in the ſame manner died invoking the gods for victory with his laſt breath.

The duke of Nivernois, who went into England in the year 1762, in quality of ambaſſador extraordinary from the court of Verſailles, to ſign the peace betwixt England and France, experienced the effects of the national ſpirit in a very uncommon manner. The firſt night after his arrival, having ſlept at Canterbury, the maſter of the inn thought that he ought not to let ſlip ſuch a good occaſion of making a long bill. "A no-"bleman," ſays he, "of ſo elevated a rank, "charged with the reconciliation of two great "nations after a bloody war, will not ſignalize "his entry into the kingdom by a diſpute with "a tavern-keeper about a reckoning." He accordingly demanded fifty guineas next morning for

for a night's lodging. The impudence of the charge aſtoniſhed his grace; who paid it, however, without heſitation, continued his journey, and ſoon forgot the petty impoſition, leaving the inn-keeper in raptures; who, thinking that the whole affair was a ſecret, plumed himſelf upon his management.

The inhabitants of Canterbury, however, happening to hear of the circumſtance, notwithſtanding their natural antipathy to the French, were ſeized with indignation, and thought that the national honour was concerned in the puniſhment of it. In conſequence of this, the firſt people in that city aſſembled together, and beſought the duke to bring the delinquent to juſtice. The ambaſſador thanked them for their intentions, but would not hear of a proſecution. Theſe gentlemen, therefore, reſolved to puniſh him themſelves. The inn, kept by this fellow, was the largeſt and beſt frequented in the whole town; the reſort to it was prodigious; the neighbouring gentlemen held their clubs and aſſemblies in that place. On being informed of this circumſtance, they all with one accord determined never to enter the houſe any more. The landlord put every ſcheme in practice to bring back his cuſtomers; but they were

were deaf to his prayers and entreaties. In this ſituation he was aſſailed by his creditors, and in a few months experienced all the horrors of poverty. He died ſome years afterwards in London, where he had reſided in the ſituation of a waiter.

Such circumſtances of national ſpirit are not uncommon in England: they are, however, related to us in Germany in ſuch a fantaſtical manner, that, inſtead of exciting ſentiments of admiration, they only occaſion us to ſmile.

The generous reſolution of the Engliſh ladies in 1742, is an anecdote extremely well known. The misfortunes of Maria Thereſa affected them ſo deeply, that they unanimouſly reſolved to diſpoſe of their jewels, and ſend her imperial majeſty the produce of them, to help her to carry on the war againſt her enemies. They accordingly opened a ſubſcription. The old ducheſs of Marlborough gave 20,000 l. and the ſum total amounted in a few days to 100,000 l. ſterling. The empreſs, however, refuſed the offer, and in a moſt affecting letter, after returning her thanks for their generous intentions, obſerved, that it was the aſſiſtance of the whole nation, and not that of individuals, that her majeſty could accept of.

If this magnanimous conduct of a few women who knew nothing of Maria Thereſa, but her misfortunes, had happened ſome centuries ago, it would at this day be the object of our admiration and aſtoniſhment: it made the moſt lively impreſſion on the mind of the empreſs queen.

Strangers, and more particularly the French, are pleaſed to ridicule the intereſt which the Engliſh take in regard to political tranſactions; this *taſte* appears to them extremely fooliſh.

Lord Tyrconnel, a nobleman of Iriſh extraction, but who, being born and educated in France, had of courſe adopted their manners, their faſhions, and their maxims, when he was thirty years of age viſited England for the firſt time. As he underſtood the language extremely well, he was obliged to hear political diſcuſſions wherever he went; ſo that his averſion to this ſubject ſoon amounted to an inſurmountable diſguſt. At laſt, reſolved to divert himſelf without being eternally plagued about ſtate affairs, he repairs to a bagnio, and invites ſome females to ſup with him; he had, however, ſcarcely taken his place at table when theſe female politicians began alſo to diſcuſs parliamentary queſtions. His lordſhip in vain attempted to give another turn to

to the converſation;—it had too many charms for theſe nymphs to be dropped ſo eaſily; they always returned to the ſubject, till at laſt this frenchified Iriſhman, loſing all patience, left them in a paſſion, and next day returned to France.

It is ſeldom or never that an Engliſhman unites the character of a miniſter with that of a patriot. The prodigious power, and the facility with which they are enabled to amaſs aſtoniſhing riches, generally make the miniſters forget thoſe principles, which, by giving them popularity, raiſed them to eminence.

Would it be imagined that in a kingdom where the power of the ſovereign is reſtrained, that of his miniſters ſhould be more extenſive than in moſt deſpotic governments? This is, however, the caſe in England, where the king, according to the principles of the conſtitution, can do no *wrong*, and where thoſe whom he employs are obliged to be anſwerable for every thing. They not only influence parliament; the honours, the dignities, the very treaſure of the nation are confided to their care;—in fine they diſpoſe of every thing. It is ſingular enough to ſee a ſimple eſquire making dukes and earls at his pleaſure, beſtowing ribbands which he him-

ſelf does not poſſeſs, and giving away employments which are at once lucrative and certain, while the duration of his own power depends entirely on the king's pleaſure.

Of all the ſtateſmen whom England has produced, no one was ever ſo zealous a patriot as the immortal Chatham, who joined to extraordinary talents the pureſt attachment to his country. Never was any Engliſh miniſter ſo much honoured with the public confidence; and never was there ſuch a happy concord between the king, the parliament, and the people, as under his adminiſtration. Alas, it was too ſhort for the welfare of England!

It is thought that, if he had remained two years longer in office, the American war would never have happened, and the flouriſhing ſituation in which his country found herſelf in the year 1762, would have been nothing more than a preſage of that glory to which ſhe would have afterwards arrived.

During his adminiſtration, all the power of the ſtate appeared to be wholly centered in him, for his aſſociates in the government ſeemed only ſo many ſubalterns acting under his directions.

By

By his means Great Britain, with a degree of felicity unexampled before among any of the European nations, was triumphant in the courſe of one * year, in the four quarters of the globe.

France never had ſo dangerous an enemy:—it was a principle with him to humble that formidable power.

He was not fond of a court;—during the time of peace, he could ſcarce hide his averſion to it, as he was perſuaded that it was impoſſible to be at the ſame time the favourite of the ſovereign and the friend of the people.

Notwithſtanding his infirmities, he *never failed*, even towards the latter end of his life, to pay the moſt exact attention to his parliamentary duties: wrapped up in flannels, and ſupported by crutches, his voice was a terror to the miniſtry. He may be truly ſaid to have died in the ſervice of his country; having been ſeized with a mortal diſtemper in the midſt of a ſpeech in the Houſe of Peers, in which he aſſerted its deareſt intereſts.

* 1758.

At the very laſt moment of his life, his mind was occupied by the cares of patriotiſm. Lord Camden was preſent at his diſſolution. This nobleman was the intimate friend of the hero; his integrity, his abilities, and an uniformity in principles had conciliated his eſteem and rendered him worthy of it. Socrates at his laſt hour philoſophiſed with his friends; and theſe two great men converſed about ſtate affairs at the very brink of eternity. At length, perceiving his death to approach, the noble patriot, after locking his friend's hands in his own, exclaimed "My dear Camden, ſave my country!" The beſt proof that can be given of the virtue of this great man, is the conſideration, that he was for many years prime miniſter of Great Britain without either becoming more rich, or more haughty, than while a private gentleman.

After his deceaſe, the greateſt honours were paid to his memory, the expences of his funeral diſcharged by the public, and a large penſion aſſigned to his family. His body was accompanied to the grave by moſt of thoſe who, on account of their birth, their rank, and above all their talents, might be reckoned the greateſt men in the ſtate. It was not a ſlight loſs that they deplored

deplored—every one was deeply affected; even the ſpectators were in tears. Colonel Ba é, a celebrated orator, and who in Lord Chatham's life-time had often oppoſed his meaſures, amidſt the emotions of his grief, ſnatching the banner of the deceaſed earl from one of his domeſtics, carried it with his own hand into the church. When the corpſe was laid in the grave, the marquis of Landſdowne exclaimed, "The ſun of "England is now ſet for ever."

CHAPTER VII.

Commerce of the Engliſh—The Peace of 1762—The Duke of Bedford—Duc de Choiſeul—The Merchants—Sir George Colbrooke—Bank of England.

ALTHOUGH the principal natural productions exported from England are only tin and coal, yet the inhabitants are the firſt commercial nation in the world. It is to an excellent conſtitution, wiſe laws, and an active and indefatigable genius, that this eminent advantage is to be attributed.

It is natural that the laſt of theſe qualities, joined to enterpriſe and prudence, ſhould extend its trade, and add daily to its riches. From this

this alſo proceeds that ſpirit of conqueſt which the Engliſh of the preſent age, and the Carthaginians of old, have interwoven in their commercial ſyſtem. This has never been the caſe with the Dutch; their acquiſitions were entirely the effect of a happy conjuncture of circumſtances at a period when, with arms in their hands, they were obliged to defend their liberties—nay, I may add their lives.

Since the time of Cromwell, the real or pretended reaſon for all their wars was commerce alone. They never have acceded to any treaty of peace ſince the protectorate of that great man, (except the unfortunate one of 1783), which did not procure them ſome inconteſtable advantages in favour of their trade. All their ſtateſmen, however differently they may have thought in reſpect to other matters, have agreed unanimouſly in this great national principle; even in the moſt critical ſituations this was never forgotten: the reaſon is indeed apparent; it alone could make their adminiſtration popular, cover their blunders, and acquire them reputation.

If we are to believe the chevalier d'Eon, the late duke of Bedford was one of thoſe infamous miniſters, who from venal motives betrayed their

country to France, by the peace of 1762. There can be but little doubt concerning the juſtice of this accuſation, as it came from a perſon who was at that very time chargé d'affaires, and miniſter plenipotentiary from the court of Verſailles; and who conſequently had good opportunities of knowing the fact, and indeed offered to give the moſt convincing proofs of it.

This nobleman, although he made no difficulty in ſelling his country for gold, was nevertheleſs capable of an action ſeemingly very great, but which had its ſource in fear; for although an Engliſh miniſter ſhould deſpiſe both the king and the parliament, he dare not brave the fury of the people. This dread of the people is a new proof of the excellence of their conſtitution. A courtier may be ſurrounded with honours, and inveſted with dignities; but an open and upright conduct alone can give him reputation and conciliate the favour of his fellow-citizens.

The duke of Bedford, the richeſt ſubject in England, was ſent in the year 1762 to Paris in quality of ambaſſador, to ſign the peace. He was oppoſed to the duke de Choiſeul, and this univerſal genius was evidently ſuperior to him in regard to talents. The preliminary articles having

ing been ſigned, were ſoon known in Paris, and the next morning an Engliſh Jew requeſted an audience of the duke of Bedford. This man, who had been for many years in Aſia, made his grace ſenſible, that, from an ignorance of the trade and even the geography of that country, he had committed ſuch groſs faults that the Eaſt India company would loſe ſeveral thouſand pounds ſterling yearly by his means, and that the treaty itſelf would be the occaſion of new quarrels between the two nations.

The ambaſſador ſaw that the Jew was in the right, and reſolved inſtantly to repair his fault. Having procured the new articles in writing, he immediately departed for Verſailles, and beſought the duke to have them acceded to. "I did not think," obſerved Choiſeul, "that I "had been negociating with a novice in politics, "but with the miniſter of a powerful nation, "who knew the validity of a treaty ſigned with "his own hand." The duke of Bedford replied to this reproach with all the boldneſs and noble frankneſs of a true Engliſhman. "You are in "the right—I am but a novice, and not an ex- "perienced miniſter. I have erred through ig- "norance; but I ſhall not by a baſe treaſon "aggravate the fault which I have committed,

"for

" for to be ſilent in a caſe of this importance " would be actually to merit the name of a trai- " tor. Chooſe therefore for yourſelf — either " conſent to make the propoſed alteration which " I have mentioned to you, or I ſhall inſtantly " depart and lay my head at the mercy of the " Engliſh parliament."

A peace was then abſolutely neceſſary for France: the duke de Choiſeul agreed to ſome of the propoſitions; and, if we may believe report, the negociation was haſtened by a preſent.

The profeſſion of commerce is highly eſteemed in England, and is honoured and conſidered as the ſource of all the wealth of the ſtate. A merchant may become a juſtice of the peace, or a member of parliament; in fine, he may aſpire to the firſt dignities, provided his talents correſpond with his ambition.

Even tradeſmen are held in ſome degree of reſpect, and indeed ſeem entitled to it both by their behaviour and their riches. Some of them are exceedingly affluent. I myſelf know that the

the late duke of Newcaſtle owed his butcher no leſs than 11,000l. at one time.

The love of convenience, to which the Engliſh are ſo much attached, makes them confide their caſh to the care of a banker. Not only merchants, but alſo wealthy people in private life, and ſometimes even the public offices, depoſit their money in this manner. There were forty-eight banking houſes in the metropolis in the year 1784.

The eminent merchants alſo open accounts with the bank of England, which receives more than half the ready money in the kingdom, and in return circulates its own paper.

None but very rich people ever become bankers; of theſe two, three, or four, generally aſſociate together, and depoſit a large ſum of money to anſwer the neceſſary demands. The duke of Marlborough generally keeps 15, or 20,000l. in the hands of Child; Drummond often has 100,000l. ſterling belonging to the Admiralty and War-office.

About

About twelve years ſince Sir George Colbrooke exhibited a wonderful example of that thirſt after wealth, with which ſome men are ſo unfortunately curſed. This gentleman was a member of parliament, the firſt banker in London, and for many years chairman of the Eaſt-India company. He gave great entertainments, kept a numerous retinue of ſervants, and could command any ſum of money. Would it be imagined that ſuch a man could ever be ruined by a ſpeculation upon alum? It is actually a fact, that having attempted to monopoliſe this article, and by that means acquire a new acceſſion to his immenſe fortune, he failed in his project, and became a bankrupt. His poverty was at length ſo great that he was obliged to ſolicit ſupport from that very company whoſe affairs he had formerly directed with unbounded ſway.

Having obtained with ſome difficulty an annuity of two hundred per annum, he went to France and lived for many years at Boulogne.

On the commencement of the war, in the year 1778, the court of France, who had given orders for the departure of all the Engliſh from that

that kingdom, were ſo affected with his cataſtrophe, that an exception was made in favour of him and his family.

The order and regularity which prevail in the bank of England are truly admirable. It is reckoned that the notes loſt annually by ſhipwreck, fire and other accidents, pay all the expences of this great eſtabliſhment. The duke de Choiſeul once attempted to ruin its credit; for ſome days there was a continual demand upon it, and the directors taking fright, began to pay in ſilver, which was counted out very ſlowly by the clerks. The emiſſaries of France every where prognoſticated its downfal; all England was alarmed: it was ſaved, however, by the public ſpirit of the merchants, the principal of whom aſſociated together, and agreed to take its notes in payments.

The Eaſt India company keep their money in the bank of England, and have been known on the arrival of a fleet, to give a draft of 160,000 l. ſterling for the duties, on a ſmall ſlip of paper.

Some

Some years ſince a Hertfordſhire farmer applied to one of the clerks of the bank for the loan of 800 l. for a few days, on a note of 10,000 l. which he held in his hand, and offered to depoſit with him. The clerk refuſed him, obſerving that ſuch a thing was unuſual, at the ſame time offering either to pay him the whole amount in caſh, or exchange it for leſſer notes. This, however, would not ſatisfy the farmer, who ſtill perſevered.—What would have been done to a peaſant in ſuch a caſe, either in France or Germany! He would have been beat by the domeſtics, and then puſhed into the ſtreet.

He may thank his ſtars for having been born in England. Inſtead of ſuch treatment, at his own requeſt he was waited upon by Mr. Payne, one of the directors, who inſtantly lent him the money required.

Having returned, according to his promiſe, at the end of eight days, and punctually repaid the ſum which he had borrowed, on being aſked, why he had ſuch an attachment to that

particular note, he frankly replied, "Becauſe I "have the fellow of it at home."

Notwithſtanding it is extremely difficult to counterfeit a bank-note, more eſpecially on account of the water-mark, which is imprinted on the paper while making, yet the allurements ariſing from ſucceſs have induced many to make the attempt. In the year 1776, a great number were iſſued, in which the original was imitated with wonderful art. The fraud was not diſcovered until notes to the amount of thirty-ſix thouſand pounds ſterling had been circulated among the public.

After prodigious trouble and expence, the bank at laſt diſcovered, ſeized, and impriſoned the ingenious culprit.

This circumſtance gave occaſion to an event, which puts human nature to the bluſh; it is, indeed, ſo diabolically atrocious, that one would readily believe it to be an anecdote borrowed from the annals of the infernal regions.

The perſon who had committed the forgery was of the name of Morton; he was a young man of a reputable family, and as ſoon as apprehended

prehended was carried to gaol, and being put in irons, languiſhed amidſt all the horrors naturally inſpired by a criminal proſecution.

The governors of the bank were exceedingly rejoiced, as they hoped, in the courſe of the trial, to diſcover the whole of this myſterious affair, which levelled at the very ſource of their credit.

It was on this idea that a pretended friend of Morton's founded his infernal project. This perſon, whoſe name was D—, repairs to the priſon, informs the young man how much he was affected with his unhappy deſtiny, and aſſures him that he is diſpoſed to attempt every ſtratagem to ſnatch him from inevitable deſtruction.

A friend in ſuch a ſituation is always welcome. The priſoner, who expected nothing elſe than an infamous and ſpeedy death, thinks that he ſees his guardian angel before him, and puts his deſtiny entirely in the power of the traitor, who in a ſhort time, by means of money and ingenuity, accompliſhes his eſcape from the dungeon where he was confined.

Every

Every thing being prepared for flight, Morton next morning has the inexpreſſible ſatisfaction of ſeeing himſelf at liberty, and in the dominions of France. He changes his name, takes the road to Flanders, and arriving at Bruges, reſolves to reſide there.

D— in the mean time had not loſt ſight of his plan. He propoſes to the bank, who were greatly embarraſſed at the eſcape of Morton, to deliver him into their hands on condition of receiving the ſum of 5000 l. as a reward.

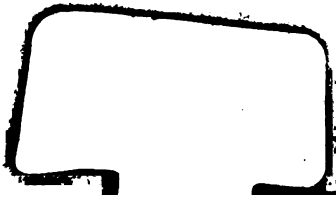
The governors thought that this was too high a premium, and perhaps imagined, with great juſtice, that a man who offered to betray his friend for five thouſand pounds, would find no great reluctance in committing the ſame villainy for one thouſand; and he ſeeing that he could obtain no more, at length gave his conſent.

In the mean time that paſſion which the Engliſh entertain for their native country preyed ſo violently on the mind of Morton, that all his wiſhes pointed ſolely towards England.

Four months were already elapſed, and he was ſtill at Bruges; from hence he had kept up a conſtant correſpondence with D—, who from time

time to time had ſent him ſome trifling ſupplies of money, when he received the joyous news that he might now go back to England in ſafety; as his family had ſucceeded in the negociation with the bank, for that purpoſe. Thus what neither the ſignature of all the governors, nor the very word of the ſovereign himſelf could have accompliſhed, was inſtantly effected by a ſimple letter from his perfidious correſpondent.

Full of a blind confidence in his deliverer and benefactor, who had deſired him to return immediately, he arrives in London, and is arreſted; the proſecution is immediately commenced, D— receives the reward of his treachery, and Morton was executed in a few days after.

END OF VOL. I.

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